



Agent 0



FBI Deputy Assistant Director Peter Strzok is seated to testify before the the House Committees on the Judiciary and Oversight and Government Reform during a hearing on "Oversight of FBI and DOJ Actions Surrounding the 2016 Election," on Capitol Hill, Thursday, July 12, 2018, in Washington. Associated Press Page 3



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U.S. judge refuses to halt extradition of Lithuanian ex-judge

By **MICHAEL TARM**

AP Legal Affairs Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — A former Lithuanian lawmaker appeared close to fainting in a Chicago federal courtroom Thursday as a judge refused to halt her extradition to her homeland, where she faces charges stemming from her claims about the existence of a ring of influential pedophiles.

Lawyers for Neringa Venckiene, 47, said they would immediately appeal the decision to the 7th U.S. District Court of Appeals. That likely means Venckiene won't be forced on a plane back to Lithuania for at least several weeks.

Venckiene was a central figure in a scandal that gripped and divided Lithuanians before she fled to Chicago in 2013 as prosecutors prepared charges. Also a former judge, Venckiene is viewed by some Lithuanians as a heroine for exposing a seedy criminal network, but others see her as a manipulator who fabricated the pedophilia claims.

As it became clear the ruling wasn't going her way Thursday in U.S. District Court, Venckiene — standing in orange jail garb — appeared near to collapsing and had to be helped to a seat. When the



This 2012 file photo provided by Juozas Valiūšaitis shows Neringa Venckiene in Lithuania. Venckiene, a former Lithuanian judge and parliamentarian jailed in Chicago at her homeland's request fears death if she's extradited because she helped expose a network of influential pedophiles in the country.

judge asked if she wanted a break, Venckiene said: "No, no." But the judge recessed for five minutes anyway, as Venckiene drank water and dabbed her face with a tissue.

Venckiene told The Associated Press in an interview from her high-rise jail in Chicago earlier this year that she feared shadowy figures she upset with her accusations about a pedophilia ring and corruption in Lithuania could

kill her if she is extradited. "The judge pretty much signed my mom's death sentence," her 19-year-old son, Karolis, told The Chicago Tribune on Thursday. He said he was convinced she couldn't get a fair trial in Lithuania and that judges would impose a tough sentence if she is found guilty. The charges she faces in Lithuania include reporting a false crime; disobeying an order to relinquish custody of her 4-year-old

niece, whom she alleges was one of the pedophile ring's victims; and hitting an officer as dozens of police pried the girl from her arms in a raid.

Judge Virginia Kendall spent nearly an hour reading her written 35-page ruling aloud in a case she portrayed as novel and complex. She said her power to halt or even delay an extradition after the U.S. State Department has already signed off on it — as it has

in Venckiene's case — is limited. Kendall accepted arguments by government attorneys that the U.S. is obliged to send Venckiene back to Lithuania in line with a bilateral extradition treaty, including to help ensure other countries extradite suspects wanted in the United States.

"It is ... vital to the very concept behind mutual legal assistance treaties ... to facilitate cooperation between nations in order to protect the sovereignty of each," Kendall said. She added that the "hardship" of extradition "is lessened by the fact that she still may defend herself before Lithuanian courts."

Venckiene said the charges are politically motivated and she has repeatedly warned she could be killed if sent back to Lithuania. But assessing whether either claim was plausible, Kendall said, was also entirely up to the State Department under U.S. law and it hadn't deemed the claims credible.

Venckiene had lived in the Chicago suburb of Crystal Lake with her son, and worked as a florist. She had documents allowing her to live and work legally in the U.S. but turned herself in in February after learning American authorities were seeking her arrest. □

Associated Press

AP sources: Army chooses Austin for new Futures Command HQ

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Army leaders will announce on Friday that they have chosen Austin, Texas, as the location for a new command headquarters that will focus on how to modernize the service and prepare for future wars, U.S. officials said.

The Army laid out plans to create the so-called Futures Command last October, marking the first time in decades that the service has added such a high-level, new headquarters. Austin, known for its live music scene, also has a favorable business, aca-

demic and technology climate that will mesh well with the Army's needs, said the officials, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss the selection before it was made public. The command is expected to have a staff of about 500 people, led by a four-star general.

Initially, 15 cities were in contention, but the Army narrowed down the list to five finalists last month: Austin, Boston, Minneapolis, Philadelphia and Raleigh, North Carolina. Army leaders have said they wanted the headquarters located near

technology and innovation experts who can identify emerging threats and help develop systems and equipment to counter them.

"We're looking at the best of what America has to offer when it comes to technology and industry and education," Army Col. Patrick Seiber, spokesman for the Army Futures Command Task Force, said last month. "That means we need to get to where these folks are."

Army leaders also wanted a place where people would want to live.

They looked at how much money is spent in each city

on research and development, among other factors.

The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce touted the city as a place where its many entrepreneurs, college students and military reservists could offer the command new ideas. Battered by nearly 17 years of war in Afghanistan and Iraq and strained by escalating cybersecurity threats, the rising powers of China and Russia, challenges in North Korea and Iran, and stubborn insurgencies in Yemen, Somalia and Syria, the U.S. military has struggled to keep pace with evolving tech-

nologies while still meeting the immediate combat, equipment and staffing needs for the current global fights.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has made it clear that military readiness and lethality are his key priorities for the department and that the services must be prepared for an ever-changing enemy.

But the Pentagon and the services are historically mired in bureaucratic red tape, making it difficult to make decisions or changes quickly, particularly involving acquisition efforts to buy or upgrade equipment and systems. □



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FBI agent clashes with GOP at hearing on Russia probe

By **ERIC TUCKER** and **MARY CLARE JALONICK**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

An embattled FBI agent whose anti-Trump text messages exposed the Justice Department to claims of institutional bias launched a vigorous defense Thursday at an extraordinary congressional hearing that devolved into shouting matches, finger-pointing and veiled references to personal transgressions.

Peter Strzok testified publicly for the first time since being removed from special counsel Robert Mueller's team following the discovery of the texts last year. He said the communications with an FBI lawyer in the run-up to the 2016 presidential election reflected purely personal opinions that he never once acted on, though he did acknowledge being dismayed during the campaign by the Republican candidate's behavior.

"At no time, in any of those texts, did those personal beliefs ever enter into the realm of any action I took," Strzok told lawmakers.

In breaking his silence at a daylong hearing, Strzok came face-to-face with Republicans who angrily argued that the texts had tainted two hugely consequential FBI probes he had helped steer: inquiries into Hillary Clinton's email use and possible coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia.

"Agent Strzok had Hillary Clinton winning the White House before he finished investigating her," said Rep. Trey Gowdy, Republican chairman of the House Oversight and Govern-

ment Reform Committee. "Agent Strzok had Donald Trump impeached before he even started investigating him. That is bias."

Republican Rep. Darrell Issa made Strzok read his texts aloud, including some with profane language. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte asked the audience to imagine being investigated by an agent who "hated you" and "disparaged you in all manner of ways."

"Would anyone sitting here today believe that this was an acceptable state of affairs, particularly at an agency whose motto is 'Fidelity, Bravery and Integrity'?" I think not," Goodlatte said.

Strzok repeatedly insisted the texts, including ones in which he called Trump a "disaster" and said "We'll stop" a Trump candidacy, did not reflect political bias and had not infected his work.

He said the Trump investigation originated not out of personal animus but rather from concern that Russia was meddling in the election, including what he said were allegations of "extraordinary significance" of a Russian offer of assistance to a Trump campaign member.

He made clear his exasperation at being the focus of a hearing when Russian election interference had successfully sowed discord in America.

"I have the utmost respect for Congress's oversight role, but I truly believe that today's hearing is just another victory notch in Putin's belt and another milestone in our enemies' campaign to tear America



FBI Deputy Assistant Director Peter Strzok, testifies before a House Judiciary Committee joint hearing on "oversight of FBI and Department of Justice actions surrounding the 2016 election" on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, July 12, 2018.

Associated Press

apart," Strzok said. The hearing reflected a little-discussed reality of public service: Law enforcement agents and other government workers are permitted to espouse political views but are expected to keep them separate from their work. Strzok said he was not alone in holding political opinions, noting that colleagues in 2016 supported both Clinton and Trump but did not reflect those views on the job. He insisted that separation was possible. "What I am telling you is I and the other men and women of the FBI, every day take our personal beliefs, and set those aside in vigorous pursuit of the truth — wherever it lies, whatever it is."

To which Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas, responded, "And I don't believe you."

Strzok said under aggressive questioning that a much-discussed August 2016 text

in which he vowed "we'll stop" a Trump candidacy followed Trump's denigration of the family of a dead U.S. service member. He said the late-night, off-the-cuff text reflected his belief that Americans would not stomach such "horrible, disgusting behavior" by the presidential candidate. But, he added in a raised voice and emphatic tone: "It was in no way — unequivocally — any suggestion that me, the FBI, would take any action whatsoever to improperly impact the electoral process for any candidate. So, I take great offense, and I take great disagreement to your assertion of what that was or wasn't."

Plus, he said, both the Clinton and Russia investigations were handled by large teams that "would not tolerate any improper behavior in me anymore than I would tolerate it in

them.

"That is who we are as the FBI," Strzok said in an animated riff that drew Democratic applause. "And the suggestion that I, in some dark chamber somewhere in the FBI, would somehow cast aside all of these procedures, all of these safeguards and somehow be able to do this is astounding to me. It simply couldn't happen."

The hearing exposed clear partisan divides in the House judiciary and oversight committees, as Democrats accused Republicans of trying to divert attention from Trump's ties to Russia through an excessive focus on Strzok. Democratic Rep. Steve Cohen of Tennessee said he would give Strzok a Purple Heart if he could. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman, D-New Jersey, said, "I have never seen my colleagues so out of control, so angry." □

GOP eager for vote on liberal Democrats' move to abolish ICE

By **ALAN FRAM**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Liberal Democrats unveiled doomed legislation Thursday aimed at abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement, their eyes focused on galvanizing voters for the midterm elections.

The House's top Republican scoffed that the measure makes him "feel very good" about November. GOP leaders moved toward scheduling a vote on the measure in hopes of embarrassing and dividing Democrats.

The dueling views of the bill's potential impact are the latest example of how immigration looms as a vote-moving issue this fall, when Democrats hope to wrest control of the House and perhaps the Senate from the GOP. Public concern over the problem shows no signs of receding soon, as the Trump administration struggles to reunite more than 2,000 migrant children they've separated from parents caught entering the U.S. illegally.

"It's the craziest position I've ever seen, and they are just tripping over themselves to move too far to the left," House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., told reporters Thursday about Democrats' bill. "They're out of the mainstream of America, and that's one of the reasons why I feel very good about this fall."

The measure erasing ICE has no chance of going anywhere in the GOP-run House. A Republican aide said No. 3 party leader Rep. Steve Scalise of Loui-



People hold a rally outside the Federal Courthouse in Bridgeport, Conn. on Wednesday, July 11, 2018.

siana got a strongly favorable reaction from other top Republicans on Thursday when he suggested holding a vote on the measure. The staffer spoke on condition of anonymity to describe private conversations.

For liberal Democratic activists, the agency has become a symbol of President Donald Trump's aggressive enforcement of immigration laws, and abolishing it has morphed into a campaign rallying cry.

"The president is using ICE as a mass-deportation force to rip apart the moral fabric of our nation," said Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., the lead sponsor. A day earlier, he said in a brief interview, "This is where the grassroots are."

While many liberals say ICE has terrified the immigrant community by abusively

conducting roundups outside schools and job sites, Republicans say it helps curb crime and illegal drugs. Republicans and some Democrats see abolition as political overreach that will help the GOP paint Democratic candidates as extremists. Underscoring its limited appeal, just eight other Democrats initially signed onto the measure with Pocan. One who didn't, Rep. Gerald Connolly, D-Va., said it could distract from the focus on separating families, which polls show is highly unpopular. "Just when something is working overwhelmingly, why would we decide to take a different course?" Connolly said.

Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., another sponsor, said backers would join other Democrats and oppose their own bill. She said

the legislation was aimed at focusing attention on Trump's policies and was "not a serious attempt to do anything." Voting "no," however, could alienate liberal voters. Under the bill, a commission would assign ICE's duties to other agencies and it would cease to exist within a year. The immigration fight also flared at the House Appropriations Committee, where the two parties clashed this week over Trump's policy of separating families. Republicans on that panel batted down Democratic proposals that undercut the administration's zero tolerance policy of prosecuting and detaining migrants caught entering the U.S. illegally. One Democratic plan would have blocked money for tent cities to house unaccompanied children.

But in a tacit admission that Trump's actions have left them politically vulnerable, members of the Republican-controlled committee accepted other Democratic proposals. One requires a government plan for tracking and reuniting children separated from their families and imposes a small daily fine if it doesn't produce one. Republicans also won party-line approval of language letting federal officials hold children for more than 20 days when their parents face legal action for unauthorized entry to the U.S. The Trump administration wants to eliminate that 20-day limit so it can detain entire families as it enforces its zero tolerance policy.

"All it does is keep families together while we're in the process of adjudication," said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., the measure's sponsor. Democrats say the administration should let such families go until they must appear in court. Some Republicans have also opposed the idea of holding families until their cases are resolved.

The House committee fight was over amendments to a massive spending bill financing health, education and labor programs, a perpetually controversial measure that gets delayed every year. The immigration provisions would only further complicate passage. The House rejected two GOP immigration bills last month, and the Senate rejected three plans in February. Congress' prospects for approving anything soon are bleak. □

House passes intelligence bill

By **DEB RIECHMANN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bill to authorize funding for intelligence agencies and support critical national security programs especially targeting Russia, China and North Korea, passed the House on Thursday. The bill, which passed 363-

54, would increase the pay for intelligence employees with cyber skills and defend against foreign threats to federal U.S. elections.

It would require intelligence agencies to brief key congressional leaders if the U.S. faces meddling or a cyber intrusion targeting a federal election.

"The bill takes steps to prevent a repeat of the Russian active measures campaign that targeted our 2016 election," said Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the ranking Democrat on the House intelligence committee.

The 100-page bill calls for setting up a center within

the Energy Department to coordinate intelligence on threats to U.S. infrastructure. It would require intelligence agencies to provide Congress with reports on leaks of classified information; security clearance backlogs; and the use of virtual currencies in assessing financial threats to U.S. national

security.

It also would require the national intelligence director to study North Korean finances and trade networks, weapon sales, labor exports and supply chains to help close gaps in economic sanctions as well as Iran's support of proxy forces in Syria and Lebanon. □

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California regulators weigh public access to gated beach

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP)

— The California Coastal Commission was set to decide Thursday whether access to a secluded beach can be restricted by a 9-foot iron fence, a locking gate with a \$100 annual key fee and a gate attendant.

The commission will vote on whether the resident-run program that has regulated access to Privates Beach south of San Jose for more than 50 years is allowed to continue, the Los Angeles Times reported. Santa Cruz County regulators first allowed residents of a winding road dotted with multimillion-dollar homes near the beach to install the gate and issued keys to control access to it in 1963. But the commission now will take into account a new state law that asks it to consider not only environmental effects but also the impact of its decisions on underrepresented communities.

"It's like a private beach club," said Patrick Veasart, who oversees enforcement of the state's coastal law in Northern California. "You're using money to filter out people who are not local, who don't live in multimil-

lion-dollar homes right by the ocean. . This is a case that could set really bad precedents."

The Opal Cliffs Recreation District rebuilt the wooden stairs leading to the secluded beach and cleaned trash and graffiti from the area that was a popular spot for parties.

The commission's decision comes as high-powered interests across the state are fighting to keep beaches to themselves.

At Hollister Ranch, the public was outraged that coastal officials quietly agreed to give up their only shot at public land access after a decades-long battle with wealthy owners. At Martins Beach, a Silicon Valley billionaire is trying to bring his fight to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Opal Cliffs residents say they have been unfairly lumped together with the billionaires as the commission focuses on environmental justice.

"They're chasing ghosts and fighting a problem that doesn't exist," said Mark Massara, a coastal advocate who fought against the Martins Beach owner and is now representing the Opal Cliffs Recreation

District. "The commission has enormous social justice issues up and down the coast — this isn't one of them."

With the gate's future in limbo, the district has taken steps to appease its critics. It began opening the beach free of charge last year from Memorial Day to Labor Day. □



This Aug. 31, 2016, photo shows a staircase from Opal Cliffs Park that leads to Opal Cliffs Neighborhood Beach, more commonly known as Privates, in the Live Oak neighborhood of an unincorporated part of Santa Cruz County, Calif.

Associated Press

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States brace for abortion fights after Kavanaugh nomination

By DAVID A. LIEB and STEVE LeBLANC

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Anticipating renewed fights over abortion, some governors and state lawmakers already are looking for ways to enhance or dismantle the right in their own constitutions and laws.

President Donald Trump's nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court has raised both fears and hopes that a conservative court majority could weaken or overturn the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling that created a nationwide right to abortion. That could fan an already raging battle in states over what should and should not be legal.

Although a complete reversal of *Roe* remains a longshot, some Democratic elected officials want to enact new abortion protections and repeal dormant laws that criminalize abortion. While those laws have been ignored for decades, some stretching back to the 19th century, Democrats want to erase them so they cannot be revived in the future.

"As long as they are enshrined in statute, they can be picked up and used by people who do not feel the same way about women and their bodies that I would say most people in this state feel," said Massachusetts state Senate President Harriette Chandler, a Democrat.

Chandler is pushing to repeal an abortion ban from the 1800s that has remained unenforced, in part because of a 1981 state court ruling protecting access to abortion.

The Massachusetts Senate approved the bill



In this Feb. 11, 2017, file photo, a Planned Parenthood supporter and opponent try to block each other's signs during a protest and counter-protest of abortion in St. Louis.

Associated Press

unanimously in January. The House speaker, also a Democrat, said that chamber will take it up before the end of the formal legislative session July 31.

In New York, Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo has been holding rallies after Kavanaugh's nomination this week urging the state Senate to reconvene. He wants it to strengthen the right to an abortion, a seemingly unlikely event in the Republican-led chamber.

Democratic Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie said the state law legalizing abortion, passed three years before the *Roe* ruling, includes a ban on third-trimester abortions and offers very limited exceptions. The Assembly has passed legislation codifying *Roe* six consecutive times, but the Senate has repeatedly blocked it.

"There may have once been a time when we felt comfortable with the pro-

tections *Roe v. Wade* offered," Heastie said. "But that time has passed, and now these fundamental rights are threatened like never before. We cannot afford to take this right for granted."

Seventeen states already have laws that could be used to restrict the legal status of abortions if *Roe* is overturned or severely limited. Of those, Massachusetts is one of 10 states that still have pre-*Roe* abortion bans on the books, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a national research group that supports abortion rights.

The institute says nine other states have laws specifically protecting abortion rights.

Lawmakers in some Republican-led states have been attempting for decades to chip away at the *Roe* ruling by restricting when, where and how abortions can be provided. Kavanaugh's appointment could lead to a

surge in such measures.

"The time is right. We need to act on it," said Missouri Rep. Mike Moon, who is hoping Trump's Supreme Court appointment breathes new life into an anti-abortion state constitutional amendment that stalled earlier this year.

The Missouri proposal states that "nothing in this constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires the funding of an abortion." It mirrors one first adopted by Tennessee voters in 2014 and placed on this November's ballot by Republican-led legislatures in Alabama and West Virginia.

The Tennessee measure was intended to overturn a state Supreme Court determination that the state constitution provided an even greater protection for abortion than the federal one. If the *Roe* precedent is reversed or weakened, similar constitutional amendments in other states could erect a shield against lawsuits asserting state-based abortion rights.

At the time of the *Roe v. Wade* decision, just four states — Alaska, Hawaii, New York and Washington — allowed abortion on demand prior to fetal viability. California also broadly interpreted a woman's "mental health" exception to allow many abortions,

according to the National Right to Life Committee. Most states had strict bans. David O'Steen, executive director of the National Right to Life Committee, said the high court's 1973 ruling "bottled up the discussion" and imposed a nationwide policy at a time when there was no public consensus in favor of abortion rights.

"We've had the subsequent 45 years where (the) pro-life movement has been seeking one way or the other to bring this back to the domain of elected representatives, rather than the courts," he said.

If *Roe* is overturned, O'Steen anticipates that some states would swiftly implement sweeping bans on abortion, some would maintain broad access to the procedure and others would plunge into legislative debate over what types of abortion laws they should have.

"The idea that a reversal of *Roe* would end abortion — that's simply not correct," he said.

Assertions that Kavanaugh could sway Supreme Court opinion to allow states to ban abortion are "a lot of hyperbole coming out of the left," Florida Republican Party Chairman Blaise Ingoglia said Wednesday in a media conference call with Republican U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz.

Gaetz said some abortion limitations "could receive more favorable treatment, bringing our country a more pro-life position, but it wouldn't necessarily have to fundamentally alter the holding in *Roe*."

Florida politics are dominated by Republicans, yet the state also has dozens of clinics that provide abortions.

Earlier this year, before Anthony Kennedy announced he was retiring from the court, Rhode Island Democratic House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello called concerns about *Roe* being overturned "irrelevant" and "not founded in reality." But now, Rhode Island Democratic Rep. Edie she said. □

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Judge finds man accused of mailing explosives incompetent

By **MARTHA BELLISLE**
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A federal judge ruled Thursday that a Washington state man accused of mailing explosive devices to government agencies in the Washington, D.C., area is not competent to help with his defense and should receive treatment before his case moves forward.

A competency evaluation for Thanh Cong Phan found him to have schizophrenia, Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Miyake told U.S. District Judge John Coughenour during a hearing.

The mental health expert who examined Phan said she doesn't believe he is able to assist his lawyer in his defense. Miyake said Phan should be sent to a hospital for four months to have his competency restored.

The judge agreed.

Phan, 44, had a history of calling, texting and writing to local and federal law enforcement agencies to tell them about his concerns about mind-control conspiracies and cyber terrorists. But in March, things changed, according to records acquired by The Associated Press.

Eleven packages containing explosive materials were mailed to the agencies on March 16, according to an indictment filed against Phan, who is from Everett, north of Seattle. The agencies received the packages on March 26.

The devices were glass vials or bottles containing a smokeless powder and a fuse, the indictment said.

The FBI traced the packages to a post office in Mill Creek, Washington, and surveillance photos con-

nected the packages to Phan, the FBI said. None of the devices ignited, and no one was injured.

FBI investigators have recovered a total of 18 packages believe to be sent by Phan, Ayn Dietrich, an FBI spokeswoman in Seattle, said Thursday. The agencies that received packages included the CIA, Secret Service, Dahlgren Naval Base in Virginia, the National Security Agency and FBI headquarters.

The package sent to the FBI also had a "typed written letter with incoherent ramblings."

The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office had many interactions with Phan for several years, according to police reports and 911 dispatch tapes acquired by The Associated Press.

Phan had sent similar letters to the sheriff's office, and he often called 911 or texted messages detailing conspiracy theories about government mind-control programs, according to the reports.

"This is no emergency," he told the dispatch operator in one of many calls. "I have a problem with high-tech terrorists cyber. You understand the word cyber, right?"

He said this cyber terrorist was able to read his mind and "the FBI's mind" through a wireless communication. They also had an invisible camera, he said, that was "on the sky and they can see inside a house."

Phan claimed this device could be used as a weapon. The cell towers were really microwave towers that could burn his body, he said.

"Keep in mind I can talk but I can't hear very well be-

cause neuro-science terror control my hearing," he told dispatch. "It's called synthetic telepathy. Control my body wireless."

He had made dozens of similar calls since 2016.

His letters said the terrorists used his photo ID and broke into his mail and email to send fake information to authorities.

Phan warned that the terrorist was trying to infiltrate the U.S. military, including the naval stations in Bethesda and Everett.

A sheriff's deputy who helped the FBI arrest Phan in March said he was familiar with Phan because of his many calls to law enforcement. □



This undated file photo provided by the Yolo County Sheriff's Office shows Thanh Cong Phan of Everett, Wash.

Associated Press

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Trump says May's Brexit plan would kill UK-US trade deal

BY JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump lobbed a verbal hand grenade into Theresa May's carefully constructed plans for Brexit, saying Thursday that the British leader had wrecked the country's exit from the European Union and likely "killed" chances of a free-trade deal with the United States.

Trump, who is making his first presidential visit to Britain, told *The Sun* newspaper he had advised May on how to conduct Brexit negotiations, "but she didn't listen to me."

"She should negotiate the best way she knows how. But it is too bad what is going on," the president said. The Rupert Murdoch-owned tabloid published an interview with Trump as May was hosting him at a black-tie dinner at Blenheim Palace, birthplace of Britain's World War II Prime Minister Winston Churchill — the leader who coined the term "special relationship" for the trans-Atlantic bond.

The *Sun* said the interview was conducted Thursday in Brussels, before Trump traveled to Britain. His remarks on Brexit came the same day May's government published long-awaited proposals for Britain's relations with the EU after it leaves the bloc next year. The document proposes keeping Britain and the EU in a free market for goods, with a more distant relationship for services. The plan has infuriated fervent Brexit supporters, who think sticking close to the bloc would limit Britain's ability to strike new trade deals around the world. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Brexit Secretary David Davis both quit the government this week in protest.

Trump came down firmly on the side of the Brexiters. He said Johnson, May's now ex-foreign secretary, "would be a great prime minister. I think he's got what it takes."

Meanwhile, Trump said



President Donald Trump, British Prime Minister Theresa May, first lady Melania Trump and May's husband Philip May, arrive at Blenheim Palace, in Blenheim England.

Associated Press

what May proposed on Brexit would hurt the chances of a future trade deal between the U.K. and the United States.

"If they do a deal like that, we would be dealing with the European Union instead of dealing with the U.K., so it will probably kill the deal," Trump said.

Britain's division over Brexit — which has split the governing Conservative party and the public at large — stems from the June 2016 referendum on withdrawing from the EU not including language about what would come next.

May's government is trying to satisfy Britons who voted for their country to leave the bloc, but to set an independent course without hobbling businesses, security agencies and other sectors that are closely entwined with the EU.

May insisted earlier Thursday that her plan was exactly what Britons had voted for in the 2016 referendum.

"They voted for us to take back control of our money, our law and our borders,"

she said. "That is exactly what we will do."

Trump's undiplomatic attack on May, his host, will likely raise the temperature around an already controversial visit. Thousands of people are expected to protest against the president in London on Friday, when a 20-foot (6-meter) balloon depicting the president as a screaming baby will be flown near Parliament.

May and Trump are scheduled to hold talks and a joint news conference on Friday.

Trump's interview easily could overshadow the government's attempt to lay out plans for what it calls a "principled and pragmatic" Brexit.

Britain is currently part of the EU's single market — which allows for the frictionless flow of goods and services among the 28 member states — and its tariff-free customs union for goods. That will end after the U.K. leaves the bloc in March.

The plans laid out Thursday in a 98-page government paper gave Britain's most

detailed answer yet to the question of what will replace them.

Under the blueprint, Britain would stick to a "common rulebook" with the EU for goods and agricultural products in return for free trade, without tariffs or border customs checks. Such an approach would avoid disruption to automakers and other manufacturers that source parts from multiple countries.

The government said Britain would act "as if in a combined customs territory" with the EU, using technology at its border to determine whether goods from third countries were bound for Britain or the EU, and charging the appropriate tariffs in those cases.

Britain says that will solve the problem of maintaining an open border between Northern Ireland, which is part of the U.K., and EU member Ireland.

Free trade would not apply to services, which account for 80 percent of the British economy. The government said that would give Britain "freedom to chart our

own path," though it would mean less access to EU markets than there is now.

The plan also seeks to keep Britain in major EU agencies, including the European Aviation Safety Agency, the European Medicines Agency and the police agency Europol.

When the U.K. leaves the EU, it will end the automatic right of EU citizens to live and work in Britain. But Britain said EU nationals should be able to travel visa-free to Britain for tourism or "temporary business," and there should be measures allowing young people and students to work and study in Britain.

Other elements likely to anger Brexit-backers are Britain's willingness to pay the EU for access to certain agencies and the suggestion some EU citizens could continue to work in Britain visa-free.

Pro-Brexit Conservative lawmaker Jacob Rees-Mogg colorfully described the plan as "the greatest vassalage since King John paid homage to Phillip II at Le Goulet in 1200." □



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Greece: Russians expelled over cash-for-protests allegation

By **COSTAS KANTOURIS**
MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS

Associated Press

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP)

— Greece has moved to expel two Russian diplomats accused of supplying funds to protest groups opposing a deal that would end Greece's longstanding name dispute with neighboring Macedonia, a Greek official said Thursday.

The expulsions were confirmed the day after NATO formally invited Macedonia to join the western military alliance pending the agreement's successful completion. Moscow opposes any expansion of NATO, particularly if it involves nations Russia sees as within its natural sphere of influence.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras told Greek reporters in Brussels after a NATO summit ended Thursday



A protester raises a flag reading "Macedonia is Greek" during a rally opposing Greece's name deal with neighbouring Macedonia in Athens, Greece.

that he was obliged "to defend the national sovereignty" of Greece, but did not refer to Russia or the ex-

pulsions directly.

"We seek good relations with most countries — not only the ones in our neigh-

borhood," Tsipras said. "But we do demand that all countries respect our international legitimacy and

national sovereignty."

Russian authorities have been given until Friday to get the two diplomats out of Greece, the Greek official told The Associated Press.

He asked not to be identified, citing the sensitivity of the issue.

The government was compelled to act after receiving evidence of "specific actions," the official said. Greece also blocked other Russian officials from entering the country, he said.

It was not clear if the Russian diplomats have departed or are preparing to leave.

The United States welcomed the Greek action. In a message posted on Twitter, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said: "We support Greece defending its sovereignty. Russia must end its destabilizing behavior." □

Associated Press



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Syrian government raises its flag over cradle of 2011 revolt



This Thursday, July 5, 2018 file photo, Syrian opposition media outlet shows smoke rising over buildings that were hit by Syrian government forces bombardment, Syria.

By PHILIP ISSA
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — For the first time in more than seven years, the Syrian government raised its flag Thursday over Daraa, the first city to revolt against President Bashar Assad in 2011 and plunge the country into its calamitous civil war. The display is laden with symbolism as the government moves to stamp out the last of the uprising against the 52-year-old Assad who has ruled with an iron fist over Syria for 18 years. His father Hafez Assad was president for three decades before him. Officials accompanied by state media crews hoisted the two-star flag over the rubble of the city's main square, allowing it to wave in sight of the shell of the Omari Mosque where protesters first gathered in demonstrations demanding reforms then Assad's ouster in the spring of 2011. The mosque has since been destroyed in the government's brutal crackdown against the city, which

ranged from alleged torturing of dissidents to shelling the city with tanks and planes. With control over Daraa, government forces can now focus on clearing the last pockets of the opposition and, separately, the Islamic State group from the frontier at the Golan Heights, which Israel seized from Syria in a 1967 war. The corner of southwest Syria is an important corridor for trade between Syria and Jordan, and onward to the oil-rich Gulf states. But most of the important fighting against the revolt has already been concluded in shattering battles farther to the north for the main cities of Damascus, Aleppo, and Homs, and territories in between. Some 400,000 people have been killed in seven years of war. Protests in Daraa in 2011 against the government's mistreatment of teenage detainees ignited a national revolt against decades of authoritarian rule. Ahmad Masalmeh, a media activist formerly based

in Daraa, said fighters in the city had accepted an offer of amnesty from the government, and let back in the state institutions and symbols of Assad's rule. Rebels refusing to accept the deal will be exiled with their families to other rebel-held parts of the country. The agreement follows a template imposed by the government and its Russian and Iranian backers that has forced hundreds of thousands of Syrians, including media activists, army defectors, and draft dodgers and their family members to give up their homes to lift the sieges against their cities. Human rights monitors say the arrangements amount to a program of political and demographic engineering in Syria to secure Assad's rule. Government forces launched an offensive to recapture southwest Syria and the areas neighboring Jordan and Israel on June 19. They surrounded Daraa's rebel-held quarters on Monday. Dozens

have been killed in the campaign, including 162 civilians, according to Rami Abdurrahman, director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights — among them women and children. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters at a news conference that the world body had tried "to prevent a blood-bath" in the region. Late last month, Guterres had called for an immediate end to military operations and a return to ceasefire arrangements agreed to by Russia, the United States and Jordan. "I think that our action was useful in that regard," he said. "But again the objective must be and remains entirely for us a political solution." Mohamad al-Hanous, Daraa's governor, said government forces were in control of 80 percent of the city, according to the government-linked Central Military Media outlet, while Syrian state media reported late Wednesday that rebels in Daraa had agreed to

surrender their heavy and medium weapons. Under the terms of the agreement, Russia will deploy military police to maintain order in Daraa and facilitate the transition back to government rule, said a media activist inside who asked for anonymity out of concern for his safety. Russian mediators are warning fighters and civilians against leaving Daraa for Idlib, the northwest Syrian province where over a million displaced Syrians are living in dire conditions and exposed to government airstrikes and the possibility of a future offensive. "Idlib is a crematory," the activist said Russian mediators warned him. Humanitarian groups say more than 300,000 people have been displaced by the government's southern offensive, moving toward the Jordanian border and to Quneitra, a province that borders Israel. Israel and Jordan's borders are closed to refugees, and the aid group Oxfam said Thursday it was unable to deliver enough aid across the Jordan border to meet the needs of the internally displaced residents. The circumstances are especially perilous for journalists and media activists, who say they fear for their lives if they are captured by government troops. The Committee to Protect Journalists said Wednesday at least 70 journalists were trapped in southwest Syria and required protection. Syria is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists, according to CPJ. At least 120 journalists have been killed in the country in relation to their work since the conflict began in 2011, according to CPJ's most recent prison census, at least seven journalists were in Syrian state prisons while many others are missing. Masalmeh, the media activist, said he was smuggled out of southwest Syria to Jordan four days ago, leaving his parents and extended family in Daraa. □

Associated Press



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Amnesty urges 'war crimes' probe on UAE-run prisons in Yemen

By SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An international rights group on Thursday called for an investigation into alleged disappearances, torture and possible deaths in detention facilities run by the United Arab Emirates and its allied militias in southern Yemen as potential war crimes.

Amnesty International's call comes months after The Associated Press reported that the UAE and allied militias were running a network of secret detention facilities where torture and abuses were widespread, outside the control of Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi's government. In a report titled "God only knows if he's alive," Amnesty said it documented "egregious violations going unchecked, including systemic enforced disappearance and torture and other ill-treatment amounting to war crimes."

The UAE issued a statement Thursday promptly rejecting Amnesty's report, describing it as "politically motivated to undermine" Emirati efforts as part of the Saudi-led coalition in support of the Yemeni government.

In Yemen's 3-year-old civil war, the UAE is part of a Saudi-led coalition battling Iranian-backed Shiite rebels known as Houthis who have taken over most of the country's north. Ostensibly, the Emiratis and Hadi's government are allies in the fight, but tensions between them have been high.

The UAE has built up militias across southern Yemen that government officials say are only loyal to the Emiratis. Those forces have taken over wide swaths of



In this May 11, 2017 file photo, a former detainee covers his face for fear of being detained again at a secret prison at Riyan airport in the Yemeni city of Mukalla.

Associated Press

territory in the south, including towns and cities.

Amnesty said that these militias were "created, trained, equipped and financed" by the UAE and are "operating outside the command of their own government."

The Emiratis, it added, have also built alliances with Yemeni security officials that bypass the Yemeni government.

The UAE has repeatedly denied it is involved in unlawful detention practices in Yemen. On Sunday, Anwar Gargash, the UAE state minister for foreign affairs, dismissed reports that his country controls prisons as "fake news." Amnesty said the denials come "despite all the evidence to the contrary."

Amnesty said it investigated the cases of 51 men allegedly detained by UAE-backed militias between March 2016 and May 2018 in Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Hadramawt and Shabwa provinces. It said most of

the cases involved forced disappearances, and 19 of the men remain missing.

"The families of these detainees find themselves in an endless nightmare where their loved ones have been forcibly disappeared by UAE-backed forces," said Tirana Hassan, crisis response director at Amnesty. "When they demand to know where their loved ones are held, or if they are even still alive, their requests are met with silence or intimidation."

Amnesty said it had documented "widespread use of torture and other ill-treatment in Yemeni and Emirati facilities." Current and former detainees and families gave "horrific accounts of abuse including beatings, use of electric shocks and sexual violence," the watchdog said.

The report quoted an unnamed detainee as saying that he saw a fellow detainee being carried away in a body bag after being repeatedly tortured.

"Ultimately these violations ... should be investigated as war crimes. Both the Yemeni and UAE governments should take immediate steps to end them and provide answers to the families whose husbands, fathers, brothers and sons are missing," Hassan said.

In the AP's investigation last year, former prisoners and security officials described widespread torture at prisons run by the Emiratis and their militias. Thousands of Yemenis swept up in the U.S.-backed campaign against al-Qaida have been held in the prisons without being charged or tried. Some have been interrogated by U.S. personnel inside the facilities, the AP found. □

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Controversial shopping mall partly collapses in Mexico City

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A newly opened shopping mall on Mexico City's south side partly collapsed Thursday after structural problems apparently led the mall's operators to evacuate the area, and no injuries were reported.

Videos posted on social media show a cantilevered, multi-story section of the mall collapsing in a cloud of dust and twisted metal on Thursday. Some of it fell into lanes of a major freeway, which had been closed shortly before the collapse. The Artz Pedregal mall opened in March, though parts remain under construction. It had drawn the ire of neighbors worried about the loss of open space, congestion and other issues. Built on the edge of the city's main ex-



The Artz Pedregal shopping mall stands partially collapsed on the south side of Mexico City, Thursday, July 12, 2018.

pressway, the mall had suffered previous subsoil slides. Mexico City Mayor Jose

Ramon Amieva said the collapse occurred in an area of offices, and ex-

perts were investigating whether the collapse of the cantilevered area was

due to structural defects or soil settling. In a statement, the mall's operator said that it notified city authorities when it noticed signs the area was collapsing. It said it regretted the impact the accident was having on traffic on the notoriously crowded Periferico expressway. At least two lanes were closed.

The mall was controversial in part because it threatened to clog traffic, and because it was built near a rain catchment basin that serves to regulate the city's seasonally heavy rainfall.

The risk posed by substandard building has been a longstanding issue in Mexico City, where many poorly built or designed buildings collapsed in the city's 1985 and 2017 earthquakes, both of which occurred on Sept. 19. □

Brazil's Lula found not guilty of obstruction of justice



A supporter of Brazil's former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva carries a flag with text written in Portuguese that reads "Free Lula" during a protest in Brazil, Monday, July 9, 2018.

Associated Press

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was found not guilty of obstruction of justice on Thursday, in one of several cases against the jailed politician. The decision is not entirely surprising since the prosecutors' office had, in the end, asked the judge to acquit da Silva, saying it had not found evidence that the former president was involved in attempts to interfere with a massive corruption investigation involving state-run oil company Petrobras. The initial indictment accused da Silva and others

of trying to buy the silence of a former Petrobras executive who was implicated in the scandal.

But Judge Ricardo Augusto Soares Leite ruled Thursday that the evidence did not present a clear picture of what actually happened. He added that the testimony of witnesses against da Silva, including some cooperating with the state, was not sufficiently credible. Da Silva's lawyers welcomed the decision and said that the judge's reasoning in Thursday's ruling could equally be applied to the case in which da Silva was convicted last year.

In that case, da Silva was convicted of trading favors with a construction company also involved in the corruption scandal in exchange for the promise of a beachfront apartment.

"It is hoped that justice also prevails in the triplex case to reinstate Lula's full liberty," lawyer Cristiano Zanin Martins said in a statement. Both cases are part of the Car Wash investigation in which prosecutors allege politicians granted favors and state contracts to companies for bribes and campaign contributions. Da Silva also faces charges in other pending cases. □

LOCAL



The big To-Do about failing Caribbean airlift

by Cdr. Bud Slabbaert

In the past three weeks, politicians and industry leaders at a number of summits in the Caribbean have expressed the urgent need for better air connections and more reasonable prices. Sorry folks. That's an old hat to say the least. There may even be a skeleton in the closet.

In 2007, Ministers of Civil Aviation in the Caribbean and other tourism and travel officials drafted the 'San Juan Accord', which called for regional officials to put in place the policy framework that would make intra-Caribbean travel for airlines less expensive and more competitive in terms of attracting investment.

In 2012, at the annual Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Investment Conference, industry experts made it clear that the lack of airlift within the region represents a missed opportunity for Caribbean tourism, "There is no Caribbean government anywhere that can ignore the difficulties that face airlift in the region," said the then Minister of Tourism of St.Kitts. "What we are saying at the CTO (ed. Caribbean Tourism Organisation) is that all Caribbean governments need to create a forum that can really bring these issues to the table. It is my hope that over the next few months there will be certain opportunities that will be used."



What was suggested in 2012 as hope for action 'in the next few months' takes six years and shows no results. The Director General and CEO of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) at the time commented: "The prob-

lem is, we have not implemented what we ourselves agree needs to be done." In other words, let's just call it a lot of 'um diddle diddle um diddle ay' and no action.

As for industry organizations in 2018 warning for the impact of raising passenger taxes? At that same 2012 Conference, the then President of the CHTA said that he noticed new policies for taxing not only the private sector, but also our visitors directly, and that these masquerade under such names as airport improvement taxes, tourism enhancement fees, and airline passenger duty. He believed that increased taxation is regressive, resulting in less revenue for the hotel and attraction sector. He urged governments to make a "serious effort" to review their taxation policies on the tourism industry and said: "It is now time to remove or reduce all excessive consumption taxes. Our industry is based on competitive pricing. Our visitors will simply choose other destinations."

The alarm clock rang already in 2012, but apparently someone hit

the 'snooze button'. Snoozing before officially getting out of bed is a pretty standard practice. To give some background on the biology of sleep. About an hour before eyes actually open, the body begins to 'reboot.' The brain sends out signals to release hormones, the body temperature rises, and one enters into a lighter sleep in preparation for the wake-up. So, the current big 'To-Do' about passenger taxes may very well be considered no more than 'the preparation for a wake-up'. Yet, snoozing six years could also be considered a coma and one may question whether there will be an actual rise-and-shine to remove or reduce taxes. After all, any Government will be very hesitant to give up a cash-cow.

At an industry conference in 2017, the tourism expert consultant and former Minister of Tourism and Aviation of the Bahamas, Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace called the implementation of the taxation 'committing economic suicide without doing it'.



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Continued on Page 14

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Aruba Today chooses to be a platform for showcasing art. Photographer Michael-Anthony Fowler took the new cover picture of Aruba Today's Facebook page, following the former local talent that shot the cover picture: Anuar Habibe. Michael is a multi-talented photographer who shoots weddings and families, but also made an

impressive series of drug/alcohol addicts in the streets of Aruba. He has a creative mind with always a social twist. His style is very natural and pure.

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The big To-Do about failing Caribbean airlift

Continued from Page 13

In July 2018, the Prime Minister of Barbados, reminded the attending Honourables at yet another summit that "The single domestic space for hassle intra-regional travel must be a place where we must start if we are serious about the single market and the single economy. It must be the place if we want the buy-in of our citizens." She stated that a single domestic space for hassle free travel pre-supposes a single domestic space for transportation and that the Region could do better with respect to moving people between island to island and country to country.

In 2015, the Secretary General of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) has urged regional authorities to institute an Open Skies policy. It would allow regional carriers to take unlimited flights to all CARICOM member states and encourage the growth of competition among carriers, elimination of secondary screening would encourage greater demand for intra-regional travel. He spoke at the airline route development forum, "World Routes" in Durban, South Africa.

Already in 2006 a study was done for the same CTO, called 'Caribbean Air Transport Study' as part of the Caribbean Regional Sustainable Tourism Development Program. The main objective of the study was

to 'assist the region in rationalizing international and intra-regional air transport as a means of ensuring the sustainable development of the tourism sector', or 'how to develop and maintain regional airlift capacity consistent with the sustainable development of the tourism sector'. The study called for 'Open Skies' between the various countries in the region. Most of the governments signed bilateral agreements with the USA because they want US airlines and passengers to come and visit. But 'Open Skies' among the Caribbean territories themselves? Fifteen years of ZZZzzzz and snoring!

Recently in 2018 at an industry conference, the before mentioned Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace stated that the Caribbean itself is the major market for Caribbean airlift.

The Caribbean may not need any more studies and committees, and meetings of Honourables, calling upon others to do something where they failed themselves to take the initiative for action. A 'Summit-and-Do' should be organized, whereby is nailed who will take the first step, what will be done, and a date of completion is set. Wouldn't that be an honourable initiative for Honourables to agree on and stick to? In the meantime, on and on it goes and where it ends no one knows. □

Travel Tips

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1. When checking-in, you will always need your valid passport, along with your ticket, e-ticket receipt or e-ticket confirmation. For some countries a Visa is also required.
2. For all US-bound departures, check-in three hours before your scheduled departure time.
3. For all US-bound flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the left side of building; follow the signs and head towards local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates. Aruba Airport provides full US Pre-Clearance service.
4. For all Non US departures, check-in may vary between airlines and destinations; always consult your airline for more information. Being at the airport 3 hours before your departure flight is always safe.
5. For all Non US flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the right side of building; follow the signs and head towards Local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates.
6. If traveling with a carry-on, there are restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols you can carry in your carry-on luggage. Always check with your airline on limitations.
7. Always check the weight limit of your baggage; excess weight may result in penalty fees.
8. Always label your bags and suitcases with your name, address and phone number.
9. Always leave all carry-on items unlocked while passing through screening points to not cause delays if these need to be inspected.
10. Avoid wearing big belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, lots of jewelry etc. when travelling. If you have these on, remove all metal items and place these in a tray for screening. It is advisable to put all metal items in your carry-on luggage until you clear security. This will help speed up the process.
11. Remove shoes at checkpoint and place in tray for x-ray machine screening.
12. All electronic items should be placed in tray outside their case for x-ray screening.
13. Avoid packing foods and beverages in your check-in baggage. When traveling to the US, you have to comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information <https://www.usda.gov/>.
14. If traveling with medication, please pack these in your carry-on luggage in their original packaging.
15. If you medical documentation, present this to the security checkpoint screener to inform them. The documentation is not required and will not exempt you from the screening process.
16. Take note of inadmissible items such as sharp objects, sporting goods, guns and firearms, martial arts and self-defense items, tools, explosive materials, flammable items, disabling chemicals and other items when traveling. More information available on www.airportaruba.com.

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Aruba Tourism Authority honored Patricia & Denise at Aruba Beach Club



PALM BEACH — Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority honored Goodwill Ambassador and of Aruba as a token of appreciation for visiting the island for more than 22 years and more consecutive years. Honorees were: Mrs. Patricia & Ms. Denise Quadrel resident of New Jersey Morris Plains.

Ms. Darline de Cuba representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members

of Aruba Beach Club, Mrs. Farida Mansur & Mrs. Ida Pieterella Brete bestowed the certificate of the Ambassadors and handed some presents to the honorees and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years on behalf of the Government of Aruba.

"Patricia and Denise Quadrel have been coming

down to the Island for 22 consecutive years and staying at their "home away from home" The Aruba Beach Club. Through the years they have made lots of friends, some who are now considered family. A few years back Patricia got news that her "Aruban son" Jason was going to become a father and that they would like her to be godmother to their precious bundle of joy. Just one of the reason they

return to Aruba not once, but twice a year, their Aruban families, friends, beaches and sunsets. Before they leave Patricia purchases bags of dog food and goes around the

island with various animal rescue centers to feed the homeless dogs on the island and each time she takes one Aruban dog home for adoption." □



Aruba's Government together with FCCA are building Independent Elderly Homes in social neighborhoods



SAVANETA — In connection with various projects taking place on the island regarding social homes, Minister in charge Otmar Oduber visited 3 prime locations. The visited locations Savaneta, Santa Cruz and Cunucu Abou are homes to elders who have reached or passed the age of 55 years. The concept of the project is to provide our elders with a home where they can live independently in

a quiet and safe environment, wheelchair friendly and also with the option of taking part of physical activities.

Minister Oduber claimed to be truly impressed by this project, which is part of the philosophy of creating neighborhoods different from what we usually see in the social neighborhoods here on Aruba. The visited project in Savaneta focus-

es on elders that can live alone and that only need some adjustments to their actual homes. The concept of having an entrance and exit where recreational parts are put in center, combined with flowers, trees, a plaza and a place to do exercises are part of this new project. Many times when we think about these social homes, we think of the problem surrounding these social



homes but this is not always the case in all neighborhoods. At this very moment there are a total of almost 16 projects going on around the

island where one of them is finishing this year. Besides this social home project there is another one under process that will also be in the Savaneta area. □





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KLM Aruba Marathon thanks Runners, Volunteers, Partners & Sponsors for amazing event



PALM BEACH— KLM Aruba Marathon would like to say "Thank You" to everyone who came out and participated in this inauguration race! The event, which was held on Sunday, June 3, was bigger than we expected, with 1,857 participants from 37 countries. Including some international top runners. The day would not have been possible without all the amazing runners, volunteers, sponsors, partners and supporters who were a part of the event. We are grateful for your support!

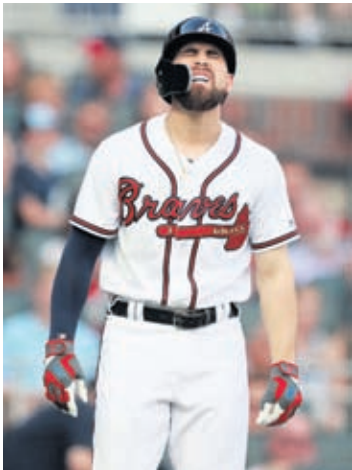
They also would like to thank the KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, the Title Sponsor, along with (ATA) the Aruba Tourism Association, distance sponsors Cavalier logistics and Chill -and of course the host hotels The

Marriott Resort Aruba and The Ritz-Carlton Aruba. Furthermore they would like to thank IBISA, Hertz, Digicel, Adidas, High Performance, AAB, Kooyman, Superfood, Amsterdam Manor, Brown Lawyers, Multi Media International, Empire, Patrishi Sports, KPA, Red Cross Aruba, Imsan, Aruba Growth Fund and Harley Davidson Volunteers who together did their best to make the best out of this event.

Congratulations to all the winners! Registration has already begun for next year's race and they are looking forward to seeing everyone again next year June 2nd 2019. So let the training begin and plan your vacation so you don't miss the chance to attend this amazing event. ☐



SPORTS



Atlanta Braves' Ender Inciarte reacts to getting hit by a pitch from Toronto Blue Jays' Sam Gaviglio during the first inning of a baseball game Wednesday, July 11, 2018, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Baby Braves looking to shake out of midseason swoon

By CHARLES ODUM
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — As well as things have gone for the Atlanta Braves in the season's first half, lately there are troubling signs that something is not right. Or maybe a lot of things are not right. The Braves have lost six of eight games and this week briefly fell out of the NL East lead for the first time since May 30. They moved back into a first-place tie with Philadelphia with Wednesday night's win over Toronto. Atlanta was off Thursday before Friday night's opener of a home series against the Arizona Diamondbacks. The Braves are looking to regain their momentum entering next week's All-Star break. "We've just have to get back to getting the whole thing going," Braves manager Brian Snitker said Wednesday. "We're obviously struggling in a lot of different areas."

Continued on Page 21

COLON-IZED



Sale helps Red Sox win 9th straight, 4-2 over Texas

Texas Rangers starting pitcher Bartolo Colon delivers during the first inning of the team's baseball game against the Boston Red Sox, Wednesday, July 11, 2018, in Boston.

Associated Press
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Serena Williams nears 8th Wimbledon title, 24th Slam overall

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Yes, this will be Serena Williams' 10th Wimbledon final. Yes, it's her 30th title match at any major. And, well, sure, she's widely regarded as not just the best of her era, but any era.

Let others shrug at this latest accomplishment, as if all it signified were merely another chance at another in a long line of trophies. Williams is not shy about saying she, for one, is impressed by this. Rightly so. For it was only about 10 months ago she was having a baby and then dealing with a serious health scare that followed.

Even after all of that, even after more than a year away from the game, even in only the fourth tournament of her comeback, Williams showed she's still capable of dominance. Especially at the All England Club, where a relatively routine 6-2, 6-4 victory over 13th-seeded Julia Goerges of Germany on Thursday put Williams one win away from an eighth championship.

She's also closing in on her 24th Grand Slam title, which would equal Margaret Court's all-time record. "A lot of people were saying, 'Oh, she should be in

the final,'" the 36-year-old Williams said. "For me it's such a pleasure and a joy because, you know, less than a year ago, I was going through so much stuff." After hitting five aces with a serve that reached 119 mph, delivering 16 winners to only seven unforced errors, and covering the court so well with speed and effort, Williams will face another German, 11th-seeded Angelique Kerber, on Saturday.

"Whatever happens, honestly," Williams said, "it's an incredible effort from me." The left-handed Kerber, a former No. 1 and two-time major champion, beat 12th-seeded Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 6-3 earlier Thursday. "Seeing her back, it's great," said Kerber, who has lost six of eight previous matches against Williams. "I know that she is always pushing you to the limits." Kerber let 2017 French Open champion Ostapenko determine the outcome of nearly every point. By the end, Ostapenko had far more winners, 30-10, and far more unforced errors, 36-7.

Williams vs. Kerber will be a rematch of the 2016 final. Williams won that for a second consecutive Wimbledon title, then sat out the grass-court tournament

last year while pregnant, part of a 16-month gap between majors.

After giving birth to daughter Olympia last September, Williams was treated for blood clots.

"I lost count after, like, four surgeries," said Williams, who has been wearing compression leggings this fortnight as a precaution.

Her first Grand Slam tournament back was the French Open, where she won three matches before withdrawing last month because of an injured chest muscle.

All of the time away pushed someone who's spent more than 300 weeks ranked No. 1 down the rankings — she began Wimbledon at 181st, but was seeded 25th on account of her past success — and no one could quite be sure how the American would fare over these two weeks.

Not even Williams knew. "This is not inevitable for me. I had a really tough delivery ... and almost didn't make it, to be honest," Williams said. "I remember I couldn't even walk to my mail box, so it's definitely not 'normal' for me to be in a Wimbledon final." The victory over Goerges extended Williams' winning streak at Wimbledon to 20 matches, dating to the start of the 2015 edition.



Serena Williams of the US gestures during the women's semifinal match against Julia Goerges of Germany at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Thursday July 12, 2018.

Associated Press

She's also won her past 15 Grand Slam matches since the start of the 2017 Australian Open, which she won while pregnant.

That title pushed her past Steffi Graf's record of 22 majors in the half-century professional era; Court won some of her Slams during

the amateur era.

Williams' match against Goerges was even until 2-all, 30-all. Until then, Goerges, the first seeded player Williams faced these two weeks, showed she was capable of trading power from the baseline and big serves with Williams. □

Wimbledon glance: Nadal, Djokovic to renew rivalry in semis

LONDON (AP) — A quick look at Wimbledon:

LOOKAHEAD TO FRIDAY: This is the first time all four male semifinalists at a Grand Slam tournament are in their 30s. Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic renew their rivalry in one semifinal, while Kevin Anderson and John Isner meet in the other. This will be the 52nd meeting between 17-time major champion Nadal and 12-time major champ Djokovic, more than any other two men ever have played each other. Nadal leads overall (26-25) and at Grand Slam tournaments (9-4), while they're even at Wimbledon (1-1), where Djokovic won their 2011 final. It's the 12th

matchup between No. 8 seed Anderson and No. 9 Isner, who leads the head-to-head 8-3. Neither has won a major title, although Anderson came the closest, losing to Nadal in last year's U.S. Open final. Isner hadn't even been as far as the quarterfinals at any Slam since 2011, until making a run at the grass-court tournament where he is best known for having won the longest match in tennis history, 70-68 in the fifth set against Nicolas Mahut in 2010. "For a lot of people, that's definitely the lasting image of my career," Isner said.

"If I can keep going further here, I can maybe squash that." He has won



Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates defeating Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina in their men's quarterfinal match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Wednesday July 11, 2018.

Associated Press

all 95 of his service games in this tournament, the first man to get to the semifi-

nals without being broken since records began in 1992. All Anderson did was

eliminate Roger Federer in the quarterfinals, erasing a match point and a two-set deficit.

FRIDAY'S FORECAST: Partly cloudy with possible afternoon showers. High of 26 degrees (79 F).

STAT OF THE DAY: 7 — the number of unforced errors Kerber and Williams each made during their semifinal victories.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "I'm going to say hers because she's moving those feet now, she's walking, maybe a little too fast" — Seven-time champion Williams on whether she or her daughter Olympia has made greater improvements to their footwork in the last 10 months. □

Dozier, Twins power their way past Royals 8-5

By The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Brian Dozier hit a two-run homer, going deep for the second straight game to give Minnesota a boost on its way to a win over Kansas City. Lance Lynn (7-7) recovered from a three-run homer by Salvador Perez in the first inning to win his second straight start for the Twins, who used the bottom third of their lineup to launch rallies in the second and the fourth against Royals starter Burch Smith (0-1).

Mike Moustakas homered twice for the Royals, who have the fewest home runs in MLB, but took the Twins deep five times over the last two games of this series. Kansas City has lost 23 of its past 27 games.

RAYS 4, TIGERS 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — C.J. Cron's three-run home run in the seventh inning carried Tampa Bay Rays to its fifth straight win, a victory over Detroit.

Cron's 18th homer came off Jordan Zimmermann after singles by Kevin Kiermaier and Matt Duffy.

The Tigers, who struck out 14 times against five Tampa Bay pitchers, have lost four straight and 18 of 22.

Rookie left-hander Ryan Yarbrough (8-4) got the win after giving up one hit in three innings of relief. Sergio Romo pitched the ninth for his 11th save in 16 op-



Minnesota Twins' Brian Dozier jogs home after hitting a two-run home run off Kansas City Royals reliever Enny Romero, left, in the sixth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, July 11, 2018, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

portunities.

Tigers starter Jordan Zimmermann (4-1) gave up four runs and 11 hits in 6 2/3 innings.

RED SOX 4, RANGERS 2

BOSTON (AP) — Chris Sale struck out 12 in seven innings of shutout ball in his final start before the All-Star Game, and major league batting leader Mookie Bet-

ts had two more hits to lead Boston to its ninth straight victory over Texas.

Sale (10-4) allowed six hits and walked one to win his fifth straight decision and move the Red Sox 36 games above .500 for the first time since Bucky Dent homered into the net above the Green Monster in a one-game playoff to

settle the 1978 AL East title. Elvis Andrus had three hits for the Rangers, who struck out 18 times to lose for the fifth time in six games. Bartolo Colon (5-7) allowed four runs.

Craig Kimbrel struck out the side in the ninth for his 28th save, and his 19th in a row.

YANKEES 9, ORIOLES 0

BALTIMORE (AP) — Greg Bird hit his first career grand slam to back a dominating pitching performance by Sonny Gray, and New York beat the Baltimore for a split of the four-game series.

Rookie Tyler Wade and Austin Romine also homered for the Yankees, and Giancarlo Stanton had four hits.

Facing Dylan Bundy (6-9) in the third inning, Bird launched a drive off the right-field foul pole to put New York up 5-0. It was the second night in a row he homered and had four RBIs.

Gray (6-7) allowed three hits, walked one and struck out eight over six innings.

WHITE SOX 4, CARDINALS 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Carlos Rodon pitched three-hit, shutout ball into the eighth inning to outduel Luke Weaver and lead Chicago to a victory over St. Louis. Rodon (2-3) allowed only two singles and a double while walking two and striking out a season-high

seven though 7 1/3 innings. The 25-year-old left-hander, who spent the first two months of 2018 on the disabled list rehabbing from shoulder surgery, sparked in just his seventh start this season.

Joakim Soria got the final four outs for his 13th save in 16 chances.

Weaver (5-8) allowed one run on three hits and fanned seven his second straight impressive start. Francisco.

INDIANS 19, REDS 4

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jose Ramirez homered twice and drove in five runs as Cleveland took out some frustrations following a brutal loss with a thumping of Cincinnati.

Ramirez hit a two-run homer in the first inning off Tyler Mahle (7-7) and connected for a three-run shot in Cleveland's nine-run third. With the Indians up 17-0, the All-Star was replaced in the fifth inning by manager Terry Francona before he could inflict further damage.

It was a much-needed rebound by the AL Central leaders, who squandered a 4-0 lead in the ninth on Tuesday night, when Francona's miscommunication with pitching coach Carl Willis on a choice of relievers helped the Reds rally for seven runs and stun the Indians. □

Aguilar, Segura win online vote for final All-Star spots

By The Associated Press

Milwaukee Brewers first baseman Jesus Aguilar and Seattle Mariners shortstop Jean Segura won the final two roster spots for next week's All-Star Game in Washington.

Major League Baseball released the results of online balloting for the last slot in each league Wednesday night, with Aguilar drawing 20.2 million votes to secure his first All-Star selection. His total was the second-highest in the history of the All-Star Final Vote, trailing only Justin Turner's 20.8 million votes last year.

The 28-year-old Venezuelan was tied for the National League lead with 23



Milwaukee Brewers' Jesus Aguilar celebrates after getting a base hit during the fourth inning of the team's baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Wednesday, July 11, 2018, in Miami.

Associated Press

home runs and becomes the fourth Milwaukee player headed to the game.

"The campaign was unbelievable — the people in Wisconsin and around the world really supported me," Aguilar said. "It's a great thing."

Brewers outfielders Lorenzo Cain and Christian Yelich had already been chosen, along with reliever Josh Hader.

Aguilar has 67 RBIs, including 12 in his past seven games, and is batting .307. "I'm swinging really good right now," he said.

Segura snagged the last American League spot with 13.6 million votes. He was followed by Boston Red

Sox outfielder Andrew Benintendi, New York Yankees slugger Giancarlo Stanton, Minnesota Twins outfielder Eddie Rosario and Los Angeles Angels shortstop Andrelton Simmons.

The 28-year-old Seattle shortstop was batting .329 and ranked second in the majors with 116 hits. He will join Mariners teammates Nelson Cruz, Edwin Diaz and Mitch Haniger at the All-Star Game. Segura, who made the NL All-Star squad in 2013 with Milwaukee, is the first Seattle player to win the fan voting for the final spot.

"It was unbelievable," Segura said. "I can't believe all those people around

the world, the fans, the marketing, the organization, the people in Seattle, my teammates, even Felix (Hernandez) yesterday going around the city trying to get some votes for me. It just feels amazing. It feels special. You come from another country and you see how the people support you around the world, it makes it even more special."

San Francisco Giants first baseman Brandon Belt finished second in the NL balloting, followed by Max Muncy of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Trea Turner of the Washington Nationals and Matt Carpenter of the St. Louis Cardinals. □

Marquez homers as Rockies pound Diamondbacks 19-2

By The Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Colorado right-hander German Marquez homered against Arizona infielder Daniel Descalso, helping the Rockies pound the Diamondbacks 19-2 on Wednesday night.

Marquez (8-8) pitched six innings of two-run ball. He connected for his first career homer in the fifth.

Marquez's drive to center was the first homer by a pitcher off a position player since Mike LaCoss went deep for the Giants against San Diego's Dane Iorg on June 23, 1986, according to STATS.

Carlos Gonzalez homered twice for the Rockies and drove in six runs. Charlie Blackmon and Ian Desmond also went deep.

Arizona right-hander Shelby Miller (0-4) allowed five runs in one inning before departing with right elbow tightness.

MARLINS 5, BREWERS 4, 12 INNINGS

MIAMI (AP) — Milwaukee slugger Jesus Aguilar was added to the NL All-Star team and then validated the selection with three hits and three RBIs, but the Brewers went 3 for 16 with runners in scoring position. Starlin Castro singled home the winning run for Miami with one out in the 12th. Elieser Hernandez (1-5) pitched two scoreless innings for the victory.

Aguilar learned he won the online vote for the final NL roster spot, and he'll also

compete in the Home Run Derby next week in Washington. Miami took two of three in the series from the NL Central leaders. Jorge Lopez (0-1) got the loss.

PIRATES 2, NATIONALS 0

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Starling Marte hit a two-run homer for Pittsburgh, and Trevor Williams combined with four relievers on a five-hit-ter.

Williams (7-7) won for just the second time in his past 10 starts, permitting four hits in five innings.

Gio Gonzalez (6-6) remained winless since May 28 despite allowing just two runs in six innings.

Washington lost for the 11th time in 16 games and fell back to .500.

Richard Rodriguez, Edgar Santana, Kyle Crick and Felipe Vazquez followed Williams with one scoreless inning each. Vazquez earned his 20th save.

GIANTS 5, CUBS 4, 13 INNINGS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Buster Posey singled off the right-field wall in the 13th inning for his fifth career game-ending hit, sending San Francisco past Chicago.

Brandon Belt drew a two-out walk from James Norwood (0-1). Andrew McCutchen then singled to bring up Posey, who ended the 4-hour, 30-minute game with San Francisco's first run since scoring four in the first.

Dereck Rodriguez (4-1)



Colorado Rockies starting pitcher German Marquez works against Arizona Diamondbacks' Jake Lamb during the sixth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, July 11, 2018, in Denver. The Rockies won 19-2.

pitched three scoreless innings for the win. He also had three of San Francisco's 16 strikeouts.

Cubs slugger Kris Bryant hit a two-run homer in his return from the disabled list, and All-Star Javier Baez tied the game with a solo homer to start the seventh.

METS 3, PHILLIES 0, 10 INNINGS

NEW YORK (AP) — Pinch-hitter Brandon Nimmo launched a three-run homer in the bottom of the 10th inning and New York got another dominant outing from All-Star Jacob deGrom in a 3-0 victory over Philadelphia Phillies.

Amed Rosario, who had two of New York's four hits, began the winning rally with a two-out double off Mark Leiter Jr. (0-1) — the first hit for the Mets since the fourth inning. Jose Reyes

walked and Nimmo drove Leiter's next pitch well over the wall in right-center for his first career walk-off RBIs. In his final scheduled start before heading to the All-Star Game next Tuesday in Washington, deGrom scattered five hits and matched his longest outing of the season. He struck out seven and lowered his major league-leading ERA to 1.68.

Robert Gsellman (6-2) pitched a scoreless inning for the win.

BRAVES 9, BLUE JAYS 5

ATLANTA (AP) — Ozzie Albies snapped Atlanta's power drought with two homers, and the Braves beat Toronto to move back into a tie for the NL East lead.

Mike Foltynewicz (7-5) and the Braves led 7-0 before Toronto scored five runs

in the seventh on Justin Smoak's leadoff homer and a grand slam by Devon Travis. But Albies hit a two-run shot in the eighth to help Atlanta hold on for just its second win in eight games. Coupled with Philadelphia's loss to the New York Mets, the Braves moved into a tie with the Phillies for the division lead.

Toronto's Sam Gaviglio (2-3) allowed six runs in 1 2/3 innings.

DODGERS 4, PADRES 2

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Kenta Maeda pitched effectively into the sixth inning and Matt Kemp, Logan Forsythe and Chris Taylor each delivered an RBI single as Los Angeles topped San Diego. The surging Dodgers pulled within a half-game of NL West-leading Arizona with their 34th victory in 50 games. □

Associated Press

Baby Braves looking to shake out of midseason swoon

Continued from Page 18

Snitker was far from panicked. He believes the downturn can be easily explained as a part of the normal flow of a season and said, "I just think teams are going to do that."

Even so, Snitker said he has examined all options, including tweaks to his lineup. General manager Alex

Anthopoulos also has to look closely at the team's recent downward trends as he considers possible trade options.

The Braves have interest in Baltimore's Manny Machado but are seen as a long shot to acquire the All-Star shortstop. Anthopoulos has said the team is unlikely to give up top prospects for a short-term rental, and

Machado is approaching free agency.

Anthopoulos may be more willing to trade a pitching prospect now that starters Sean Newcomb, Mike Foltynewicz and Mike Soroka have enjoyed success in Atlanta this season.

Trading a prospect for immediate help wouldn't have been considered a likely move for Anthopou-

los at the beginning of the year. The rebuilding Braves were expected to contend in a year or two. But now that the Braves have spent much of the season in first place, the timetable for aggressive moves may have changed.

Injuries have left the rotation full of questions. Soroka (right shoulder inflammation), Brandon McCarthy

(right knee tendinitis) and Anibal Sanchez (right hamstring strain) are on the 10-day DL.

Left-hander Luiz Gohara, who had been in the bullpen, was optioned to Triple-A Gwinnett after Wednesday night's game. He is expected to use his time in Gwinnett to prepare for a possible spot in Atlanta's rotation after the break. □

Pacquiao predicts action-filled fight against Matthyse

By EILEEN NG

Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao said Thursday he is prepared for an action-packed fight against aggressive Argentinian Lucas Matthyse in Sunday's world title bout that could put his illustrious career at stake.

Pacquiao, who turns 40 in December, returns to the ring a year after losing his World Boxing Organization welterweight title in a shock defeat to Australia's Jeff Horn in Brisbane.

Pacquiao said he chose to fight Matthyse, the current World Boxing Association welterweight champion, because the Argentinian is aggressive and they could both provide "a lot of action" in the ring.

"It's going to be a good fight," Pacquiao said at a news conference. "I don't care if he has 36 knockouts...it's about your talent and skill inside the ring. Let's see on Sunday who will be the best."

A once impoverished rural boy who turned into one of the world's wealthiest sportsman and now a Filipino senator, Pacquiao's rags-to-riches story has inspired many in his country. His biggest supporter on Sunday will be Filipino President



Argentine WBA welterweight champion Lucas Matthyse speaks as Philippine senator and boxing hero Manny Pacquiao smiles during a press conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Thursday, July 12, 2018.

Associated Press

dent Filipino Duterte, who will arrive in Malaysia to watch the bout ahead of an official visit.

"Pacman" Pacquiao, 39, has won 59 times, including 38 by knockout, and lost seven times (three by knockout) along with two draws. Matthyse, 35, has 39 wins — 36 by knockout — and four losses, one of them by knockout.

It will be the first time since 2001 that Pacquiao is fighting without longtime trainer Freddie Roach, who was

dropped in the run-up to the Malaysian fight and replaced with former assistant coach and friend Buboy Fernandez.

Matthyse told the news conference he is determined to defend his title and isn't concerned that it could end Pacquiao's career if the Filipino loses. He said it has been his dream since young to fight Pacquiao, an 11-time world champion across eight divisions.

"He's a great champion but

he hasn't faced the 'great machine', Lucas Matthyse," he said, referring to his moniker. "If he decides to retire, that's his decision. I'm here to defend my title." Matthyse may be the underdog but his trainer Joel Diaz said "nothing is impossible."

Matthyse "is not here to collect a pay check. He is here to bring back his title to his country and his people," Diaz said.

With both boxers beyond their prime, Diaz has previ-

ously predicted a "50/50" chance of winning for either but he said he believed Matthyse is more focused while Pacquiao has other distractions outside boxing that could be disadvantage him.

Beyond boxing and politics, Pacquiao has also dabbled in basketball, business, TV hosting, acting and singing. His most recent venture is into cryptocurrency, as an investor in Singapore-based blockchain firm Global Crypto Offering Exchange (GCOX). Pacquiao will next month launch his "PAC Token," becoming the latest athlete to launch a virtual currency following Floyd Mayweather and former England striker Michael Owen.

The token can be used to buy exclusive Pacquiao merchandise and interact with him via live-streaming, and its value is supposed to be indicative of his popularity.

"It's not easy but this is time management. I have good people around me," said Pacquiao, when asked about his political career and multiple interests. "Right now, my focus is to fight on Sunday to give an inspiration to the Filipino people and to my fans all over the world." □

Mickelson says he will try to act better on golf course

GULLANE, Scotland (AP)

— Phil Mickelson wishes he could take back the moment when he swatted a moving golf ball at the U.S. Open.

"But there's not much I can do about it now other than just try to ... act a little better," Mickelson said on Thursday at the Scottish Open.

In his most extensive comments since he purposely violated the Rules of Golf at Shinnecock Hills, Mickelson said whatever backlash he receives from players and the public was his own doing.

Mickelson was sliding far out of contention in the third round of the U.S. Open when he chased after a

bogey putt on the 13th hole and hit it back toward the hole to keep it rolling off the front of the green. He was assessed a two-shot penalty amid criticism that he should have been disqualified for such a willful violation.

In his next tournament, Mickelson tamped down tall grass just beyond the tee box at The Greenbrier to play a low iron shot, and then immediately realized it might have been a violation. He summoned a rules official, told him what happened and was penalized.

"It's not been my best month," Mickelson said.

Mickelson has apologized previously for the U.S. Open



Phil Mickelson tees off at the 2nd, during day one of the Scottish Open golf tournament at Gullane Golf Club, East Lothian, Scotland, Thursday July 12, 2018.

Associated Press

blunder, sending out a statement the following week and speaking about it during a corporate-sponsored event in

Chicago for the Women's PGA Championship.

"It's much easier for me to deal with it because it was my own fault," Mickelson

said. "You have to be accountable for yourself. I do a lot of dumb stuff."

Mickelson played the Ryder Cup course in Paris ahead of the Scottish Open, and he went over to Carnoustie this week to start preparing for next week's British Open. He said the fans at Carnoustie treated him well, and he wasn't worried about his reception coming off his U.S. Open behavior. "I wasn't nervous."

I didn't know that I should be," he said. "Most people realize we all make mistakes. That was certainly one of them."

Mickelson opened with an even-par 70 at the Scottish Open and was in danger of missing the cut. □

Scandal-hit USOC picks golf exec Sarah Hirshland as CEO

By EDDIE PELLIS,
AP National Writer
DENVER (AP) —

Sarah Hirshland is known as the tough negotiator who helped the U.S. Golf Association broker media and sponsorship deals, including its 12-year TV contract with Fox.

Her next job, as CEO of the U.S. Olympic Committee, will be a more delicate task — repairing a frayed relationship with athletes and a community that has grown wary of the governing body after a slew of sex-abuse cases they feel were not handled appropriately. The USOC announced the USGA's chief commercial officer as the new CEO on Thursday.

She'll replace Scott Blackmun, who resigned earlier this year to deal with health issues that undercut his ability to deal with the sex-abuse crisis that engulfed

the federation.

"The USOC is at a critical time in its history and requires an energetic, creative and inspiring leader who is capable of building on past success while making sure that the athletes we serve are protected, supported and empowered in every possible way," USOC Chairman Larry Probst said. The USOC embarked on a four-month search that brought more than a dozen candidates into the fold. Hirshland will start the job later this month.

Before the USGA, she worked with Casey Wasserman, the chair of the LA 2028 Olympic effort, at Wasserman Media Group. Wasserman called her a visionary leader.

USGA CEO Mike Davis said golf's return to the Olympics in 2016 helped Hirshland become familiar with

the movement, "and now, with Sarah at the helm, this connection will only be strengthened."

But Hirshland's top task will be restoring credibility to the USOC's efforts to provide safe atmospheres for its athletes.

Sex-abuse scandals in swimming, gymnastics and taekwondo — to name a few — forced the USOC to create more uniform standards to protect athletes across all Olympic sports. But the USOC's portrayal of itself as a federation that only truly oversees the athletes during the three-week Olympic period every two years rubbed many people wrong, and made it sound as if its leaders weren't ultimately responsible for the welfare of the athletes.

Under Blackmun's tenure, the USOC helped open the U.S. Center for SafeSport,



which took over the duty of investigating sex-abuse cases in Olympic sports and meting out the punishment. Still, the USOC finds itself a defendant in a handful of lawsuits filed by athletes and even former U.S. gymnastics coordinator Martha Karolyi, all of which seek damages because of its role in the scandal.

"I ... recognize the challenges ahead as we navigate this critical moment in the USOC's history," Hirsh-

land said.

"We must protect, support and empower athletes, young and old, elite and beginner.

Olympic and Paralympic sport in the United States must be a shining example, able to provide athletes with the benefits of participation in an environment free from abuse of any kind. The USOC has made great strides in this area and I look forward to carrying on that critically important work." □

Daniel Martin wins Stage 6 of Tour, Van Avermaet keeps lead

By JOSEPH WILSON
Associated Press

MUR DE BRETAGNE, France (AP) — Daniel Martin of Ireland won an uphill finish to claim Stage 6 of the Tour de France on Thursday, while Greg Van Avermaet kept the yellow jersey for a third consecutive day.

Defending champion Chris Froome crossed eight seconds after Martin in 18th. That left the Sky leader 1 minute, 2 seconds off Van Avermaet's overall lead.

Martin broke away at the midway point of the straight two-kilometer ascent of the Mur de Bretagne, winning the 181-kilometer (112-mile) leg that started in the western port city of Brest in over four hours.

The UAE Emirates leader counterattacked when Richie Porte jumped ahead and nobody immediately tried to reel him in.

"I saw the moment. I had really good legs and when I went my legs kept coming and coming," Martin said. "I knew if I could get a gap it would be difficult to close from behind."

Pierre Latour crossed the line second followed by Alejandro Valverde in third. It was Martin's second Tour stage win after his first in 2013.

Van Avermaet, a support rider for Porte, has held the yellow jersey since BMC won the team time trial on Stage 3.

"(Porte) can be confident after this climb," Van Avermaet said. "We use me (as the leader) to ease the pressure off him."

Title hopefuls Tom Dumoulin (Sunweb) and Romain Bardet (AG2R La Mondiale) were the big losers of the day.

Dumoulin, the time trial world champion and 2017 Giro d'Italia winner, was slowed by a tire puncture at the foot of the final ascent and lost 53 seconds. He entered the stage seventh overall and finished it 15th and one second behind Froome.

Bardet was left 1:45 back in 23rd overall after a spoke on his bike broke.

"Then I had to chase and that effort was fatal. It's



Ireland's Daniel Martin celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the sixth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 181 kilometers (112.5 miles) with start in Brest and finish in Mur-de-Bretagne Guerledan, France, Thursday, July 12, 2018.

Associated Press

never good to lose time," said Bardet, who has finished on the podium in the past two Tours. "There are a lot of twists on the Tour and this time luck was not on our side."

Martin was one of several team leaders along with former Tour winner Vincenzo Nibali and two-time runner-up Nairo Quintana who were caught off-guard by an attack by Quick-Step

100 kilometers into the stage during a straight-away that was exposed to crosswinds.

A group of around 40 riders including Froome opened up a gap of over a minute, but Martin and the rest worked to reunite the peloton.

A four-man breakaway earned a seven-minute advantage before being swallowed up late.

Riders twice went up the Mur de Bretagne, or "Wall of Brittany," which the local cycling-crazed Bretons affectionately refer to as their smaller version of the famous Alpe d'Huez. While that Alp ascent awaiting on Stage 12 rises to 1,850 meters, the Mur de Bretagne tops out at 293 meters.

The course route that took riders along the lovely rolling hills of northwestern France included a pass through the town of Carhaix, which boasts four Breton winners of the Tour, including the great Bernard Hinault.

Froome is trying to join Hinault, Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, and Miguel Indurain as the only riders to win the Tour five times.

This was the first summit finish of this Tour.

After the relatively flat first nine days, the race will head south and into the Alps and then the Pyrenees Mountains.

Friday's flat 231-kilometer leg from Fougères to Chartres is the longest stage of this Tour. □

New U.N. panel to make proposals to ensure safe digital future

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations is establishing a high-level panel co-chaired by Chinese e-commerce billionaire Jack Ma and the wife of Microsoft founder Bill Gates to make recommendations on ensuring “a safe and inclusive digital future.” Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said at a news conference Thursday that he sees the United Nations “as a unique platform for dialogue in our digital age” and the panel as an expert group to make proposals to strengthen international cooperation. In Guterres’ words: “As a global community, we face questions about security, equity, ethics, and human rights in a digital age. We need to seize the potential of technology while safeguarding against risks and unintended consequences.” The panel led by Ma, founder of e-commerce giant Alibaba, and Melinda Gates, who co-chairs the Gates foundation, includes 20 members. □



This April 26, 2017 photo shows the Twitter app on a mobile phone in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

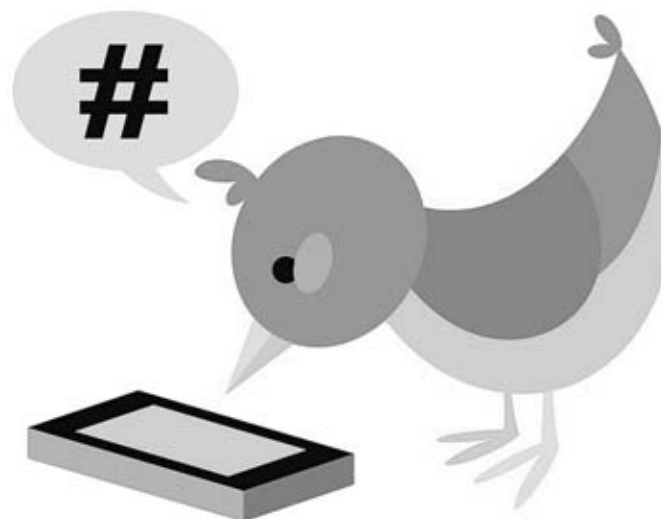
Twitter to remove suspicious accounts from follower counts

NEW YORK (AP) — Twitter says it will begin removing suspicious accounts it has locked from its counts of users’ followers. Twitter users are likely to see a reduction in their follower counts in the coming days. For many, this will amount to a reduction of four followers or less. But large accounts of celebrities and public figures could see bigger drops. An account that’s been locked can’t tweet, like or retweet posts, and it won’t be shown ads. The company said Wednesday that the move will not affect its number of monthly or daily active user figures. In the first three months of the year, it had 336 million active users. Twitter has been working to remove fake accounts, bots and abusive posts from its service. □

Broadcom to acquire CA Technologies for \$18.9 billion

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Chipmaker Broadcom says it is buying IT management software company CA Technologies for \$18.9 billion in cash. Broadcom CEO Hock Tan says the move is an important building block for the company as it aims to become a world-leading infrastructure technology provider. The offer for \$44.50 in cash is 20 percent higher than the closing price for CA’s shares Wednesday. □

What Twitter’s streaming experiment means for the future of live TV



The roll-out has been a bit clunky, but there’s potential. ‘Bird’ via www.shutterstock.com Associated Press

Associated Press

Yet another way to watch television has emerged. More than two million viewers watched some of the Thursday night NFL football game on Twitter each of the last three weeks, and several million more used it to watch the first presidential debate. For those who didn’t, here’s how it works: After opening the Twitter app and clicking Moments, you click “watch live” to join the live stream. If you position your phone horizontally, you’ll see a full screen image of the broadcast — really no different from watching any other video. But if you hold your phone vertically, the live feed is isolated to the top third of the screen; below is a Twitter feed of hashtags related to the event. (You can also watch it on a computer screen.) The live “Twittercast” is the latest development I’ve explored in 15 years of researching the changing business of U.S. television. These two events illustrate different potential for Twitter-distributed video. Neither offered a “game-changing” experience — yet. But these two experiments, arriving in quick succession, reveal the future of live TV, which hasn’t been significantly affected by the arrival of services like Netflix and Amazon. That’s clearly about to change. A deal is struck

So why is the NFL letting Twitter show these games? Twitter did pay US\$10 million for the rights (though reportedly was not the highest bidder). But a big advantage is that programmers gather a lot more information about viewers that watch on Twitter than by broadcast or cable. Knowing more about who your viewers are and how they watch can be valuable to advertisers. Twitter, meanwhile, is forking over millions because football has a vast, engaged fan base, which is the fastest way to get audiences to try something new. But why would you, the viewer, want to watch a football game on Twitter? Well, for one, it lets you watch if there isn’t an available television. The NFL notoriously guards its television rights very tightly, and those who don’t subscribe to the Thursday night game’s license holders — CBS, NBC or NFL Network — lack authorized access to the games. The Twittercast creates a subscription-free, anywhere, any-screen option — even if used in as mundane a setting as sitting with your family on the couch as they watch something else on TV. A better viewing experience? But in its current iteration, if you’re anywhere near a TV showing the game,

you’ll want to watch the game there. When I used the Twittercast, there was a significant delay, usually around 30 seconds (the result of a technological issue called latency). This means that if you’re near people watching the game on television, you’ll hear their response to a big play well before it’s unfolding on your screen. Moreover, if you have score alerts delivered to your phone, you may know what happens before you see it. The need to see sporting events in real time is one of the reasons they have been immune to the changes timeshifting technologies — streaming, on demand or DVR recording — have wrought on network schedules of scripted programs. In the past, networks have tried to use social media discussions to encourage viewers to turn into scheduled broadcasts. By promoting hashtags or having writers and actors live tweet during the show, they hope to create a media event and a conversation around a weekly episode. Twittercasts attempt to do the same, but the 140 character-limit of the medium can hamper how much conversation can actually take place. The feed visible when viewing vertically is simply made up of strangers who have included a game-related hashtag. To access your own Twitter community, you have to leave the game screen to shift to your home feed. The Twitter feed based on the game hashtag isn’t really a conversation — more a broadcast of thousands of fans’ reactions, many of which are repetitive and banal. The debate Twittercast provided some contrast in this regard. There was more to engage with and was able to provoke more diverse reactions, which made it seem like eavesdropping on a lot of different conversations. □

Technology rebound sets Nasdaq on course for record high

By MARLEY JAY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Technology companies are soaring Thursday as investors remain optimistic about the sector even though much of the market has been shaken by fears about the trade war with China. The Nasdaq composite is on track for an all-time high. Industrial companies are also bouncing back as the market recovers most of its losses from a day ago. Software maker CA is jumping after chipmaker Broadcom agreed to buy it for \$18.9 billion.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index gained 20 points, or 0.7 percent, to 2,794 as of 2:38 p.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 190 points, or 0.8 percent, to 24,891. The Nasdaq composite advanced 93 points, or 1.2 percent, to 7,809. The tech-heavy index is on track to beat the all-time high it reached on June 20.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks added 5 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,688.

The S&P 500 fell 0.7 percent Wednesday as new trade threats between the U.S. and China led to big losses for industrial, energy and materials companies. Industrials regained most of their losses Thursday while basic materials makers were only a little higher and energy companies didn't move much.

CHIP SHOPPING: CA accepted an offer from Broadcom worth \$18.9 billion, or \$44.50 per share. Its stock rocketed 18.1 percent to \$43.93 while Broadcom, which plans to take



Specialist Michael O'Mara, left, and trader Christopher Fuchs work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, July 12, 2018.

on \$18 billion in debt to pay for CA, lost 15.2 percent to \$206.51.

Other technology companies also climbed. Apple rose 1.6 percent to \$190.88 and Microsoft gained 2.2 percent to \$104.19. Intel rebounded 1.8 percent to \$52.14.

GAINERS: Johnson & Johnson rose 1 percent to \$127.52 and Merck picked up 1.3 percent to \$62.71 as health care companies advanced. Among industrials, manufacturer Honeywell rose 2 percent to \$147.39.

DEFENSE SPENDING: Defense contractors rose after President Donald Trump continued to criticize other NATO members at the group's summit in Brussels. He said European countries should raise their defense spending and suggested in a tweet that U.S. should do the same.

French President Emmanuel Macron said NATO spending plans haven't changed, as several years ago members set a long term goal of spending 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense. Trump tweeted about a 4 percent target, which is more than the U.S. currently spends.

Lockheed Martin gained 2 percent to \$312.78 and Raytheon rose 1.6 percent to \$197.05.

EXPENSIVE SUBSCRIPTION: The merry-go-round of potential media deals continued as Comcast offered to buy European pay-TV company Sky for \$34 billion just a day after Twenty-First Century Fox increased its own offer for Sky.

Fox already owns 39 percent of Sky. While Fox and Comcast tangle over Sky, Comcast and Disney are trying to buy Fox itself. Fox recently accepted a \$71 billion offer from Disney, and the New York Times reported Thursday that Comcast will end its pursuit of Fox and focus on Sky.

Sky's stock rose 3.4 percent in London. In the U.S., Comcast rose 1.8 percent to \$34.39 and Fox fell 0.5 percent to \$47.54. Disney gained 0.3 percent to \$108.39.

TRADE PAIN: Stocks around the world slumped Wednesday after the Trump admin-

istration released a list of \$200 billion in imports from China that it could hit with a 10 percent tax. China said it would retaliate if the tariffs take effect, and the dispute could impair global economic growth.

Stock indexes overseas recovered a piece of their losses Thursday. In Paris, the French CAC 40 climbed 1 percent. Germany's DAX added 0.6 percent and the Britain FTSE 100 rose 0.8 percent.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 gained 1.2 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.7 percent. Seoul's Kospi added 0.2 percent.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude dipped 0.1 percent to \$70.33 a barrel in New York while Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 0.9 percent to \$74.08 per barrel in London. U.S. crude dropped 5 percent Wednesday and Brent nosedived almost 7 per-

cent as investors worried that the trade conflict will hurt the global economy. They also expect oil supplies to increase after Libya announced that it will start exporting oil again.

Wholesale gasoline added 0.5 percent to \$2.07 a gallon. Heating oil rose 1.1 percent to \$2.12 a gallon. Natural gas fell 1.1 percent to \$2.80 per 1,000 cubic feet.

TAKEOUT? Shares of Papa John's International jumped 13 percent to \$54.62 after the company said founder John Schnatter resigned as chairman. The move came after Schnatter confirmed a report that he had used a racial slur on during a conference call in May.

Investors speculated that his departure makes it more likely Papa John's will be sold. Stifel analyst Christopher Cull said Wall Street has viewed the company as a potential sale target for some time. But since Schnatter is still its largest shareholder, Cull doesn't think that will happen.

Schnatter owns about 29 percent of the company's stock, and the value of his stake jumped by \$59 million to Thursday to about \$516 million in total.

METALS: Gold rose 0.2 percent to \$1,246.60 an ounce. Silver gained 1 percent to \$15.98 an ounce. Copper rose 1.2 percent to \$2.78 a pound after it fell to an 11-month low on Wednesday.

BONDS: Bond prices ticked higher. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.85 percent from 2.86 percent.

CURRENCY: The dollar rose to 112.47 yen after it jumped to 112.04 yen a day ago. The euro edged up to \$1.1677 from \$1.1674. □

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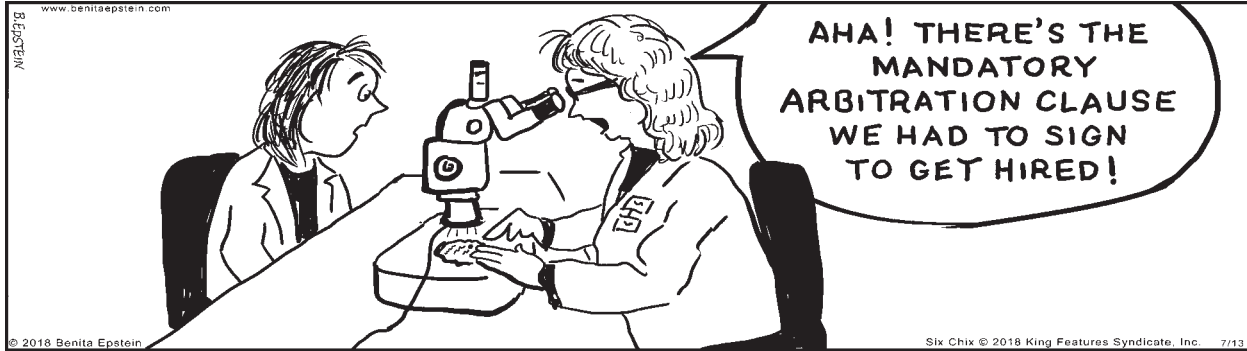
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Mutts



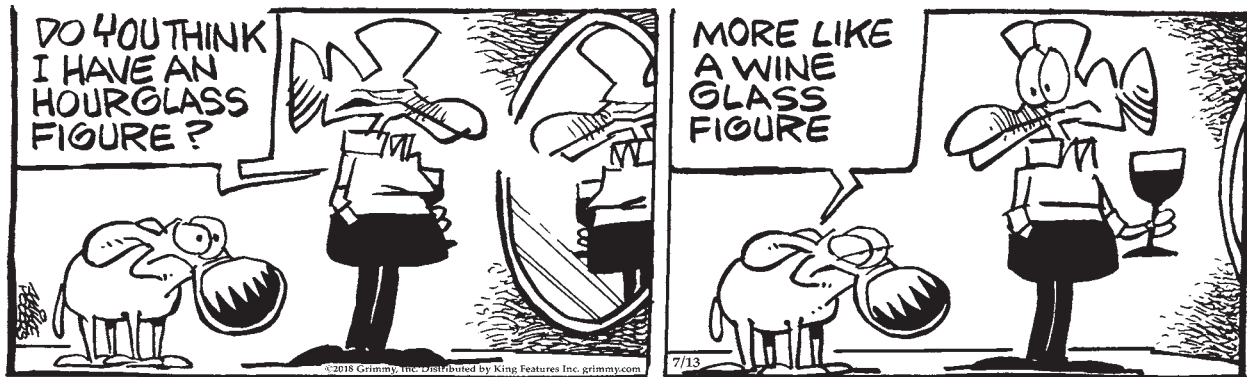
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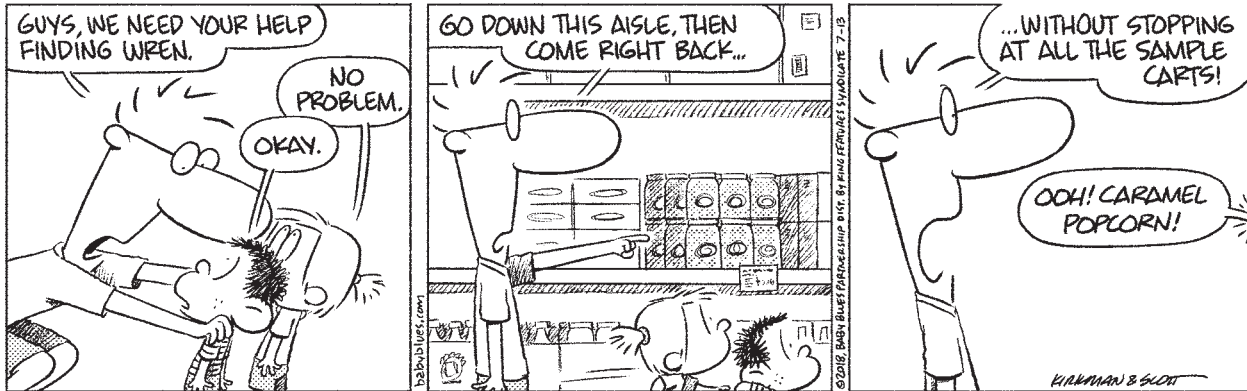
Blondie



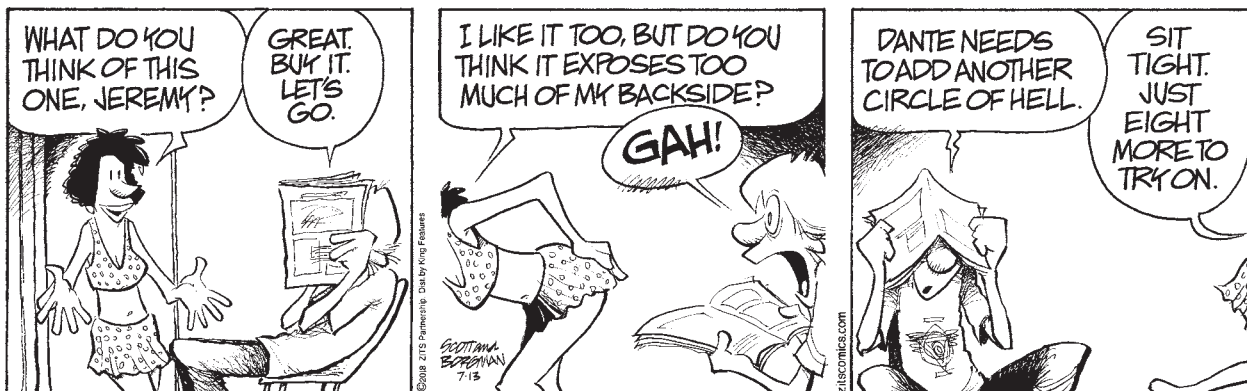
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

8			4			2		
	5				7			
						6		8
2				4			9	
			5	8	2			
	3			1				5
9		6						
			2				3	
		7			6			9

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/13

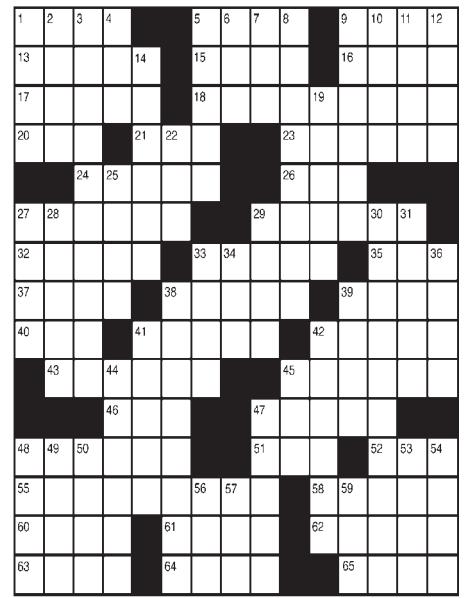
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	2	6	1	7	5	9	4	3
9	3	5	2	8	4	6	1	7
1	7	4	6	9	3	2	5	8
7	5	2	4	6	1	3	8	9
6	1	3	8	5	9	7	2	4
4	9	8	7	3	2	5	6	1
5	6	7	3	4	8	1	9	2
2	4	9	5	1	7	8	3	6
3	8	1	9	2	6	4	7	5

ACROSS

- Small horse
- Haughtiness
- Breakfast order
- these days; eventually
- Aretha's music
- Leak out
- Take place
- Sucrose source
- Allow
- Have unpaid bills
- Approached
- Carving tools
- Faucet
- Lurch forward without control
- Not roundabout
- Martian, for one
- Leg parts
- Skirt edge
- Form a close relationship
- Taking to court
- Sticky strip
- That girl
- Bits of bacteria
- Window pieces
- Shrewd
- Door hanger's needs
- Big success
- Flat-bottomed boat
- Like a piercing scream
- Neighbor of Canada: abbr.
- Fore and
- Actress Cox
- Piece of furniture
- and crafts
- Acting part
- Burstyn or Pompeo
- Ship's pole
- Recipe verb
- Chair or bench



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/13/18

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

FDR	ARMOR	CLAW
LEES	LEAVE	OUCH
YEAH	CITES	MATE
PROPOSER	BUST	
WETS	AMA	
UPBEAT	ATTITUDE	
SHARK	CRIS	SAN
HALS	POSED	HUNT
ESS	ARLOS	FORCE
REACTION	SAWYER	
HEM	CAME	
PLEA	AGGRIEVED	
LOAF	TALON	EXAM
OGRE	ELECT	RILE
YENS	SEEKS	TEA

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7/13/18

DOWN

- Swimming spot
- A single time
- Summer fruits
- "Are ...
Lonesome
Tonight?"
- Pack animals
- Debtor's note
- Floor covering
- Inclining
- Get away
- Equipment
- Hackman or Wilder
- Drove too fast
- 2013 computer-animated Disney film
- Raises, as kids
- Ming-Na
- Landowner's paper
- Taxis
- Island greeting
- Rackets
- Varying
- Cone-shaped home
- Certain
- Male pronoun
- Clutter
- Homesteaders
- Orangey drink
- Culpability
- Captain Hook, for one

- Biting insect
- Canvas shelter
- "to worry";
reassuring
words
- Inventor
Whitney
- Molinaro and
Gore
- Craving for
water
- been; one
no longer
popular
- Customer
- Shady deal
- Circle dance
- Deep tire tracks

California meets greenhouse gas reduction goal years early

CHRISTOPHER WEBER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California greenhouse gas emissions fell below 1990 levels, meeting an early target years ahead of schedule and putting the state well on its way toward reaching long-term goals to fight climate change, officials said Wednesday.

The California Air Resources Board announced pollution levels were down 13 percent since their 2004 peak — as the economy grew 26 percent since that year. The achievement was roughly equal to taking 12 million cars off the road or saving 6 billion gallons (22.7 billion liters) of gasoline a year, the board said.

Chairwoman Mary D. Nichols called it "great news for the health of Californians, the state's environment and its economy."

Greenhouse gas emissions dropped 2.7 percent in 2016 — the latest year available — to about 430 million metric tons, the board said. That's just below the 431 million metric tons produced in 1990.

California law requires that emissions return to 1990 levels by 2020 and reach 40 percent below that marker by 2030. The Air Resources Board has broad authority to achieve those goals in the nation's most populous state.

"California set the toughest emissions targets in the nation, tracked progress and delivered results," Governor Jerry Brown said Wednesday. The decrease is partly a result of California's increased use of renewable power, the board said. Solar electricity generation from rooftop arrays and power plants jumped 33 percent in 2016, according to the new data. Imports of hydroelectric power shot up 39 percent that year as rains returned to the Western United States after years of drought, officials said. □

eration from rooftop arrays and power plants jumped 33 percent in 2016, according to the new data. Imports of hydroelectric power shot up 39 percent that year as rains returned to the Western United States after years of drought, officials said. □



In this July 1998 file photo, traffic drives toward downtown Los Angeles on the 110 freeway as a curtain of smog shrouds the skyline.

Associated Press

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Divi Dutch Vill.

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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
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Ambulancia	
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Aruba Airlines	583 8300
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896
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CRUISES



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Freewinds
July 18
Monarch
Freewinds

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Women in Difficulties
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Centre for Diabetes
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Child Abuse Prevention
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Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

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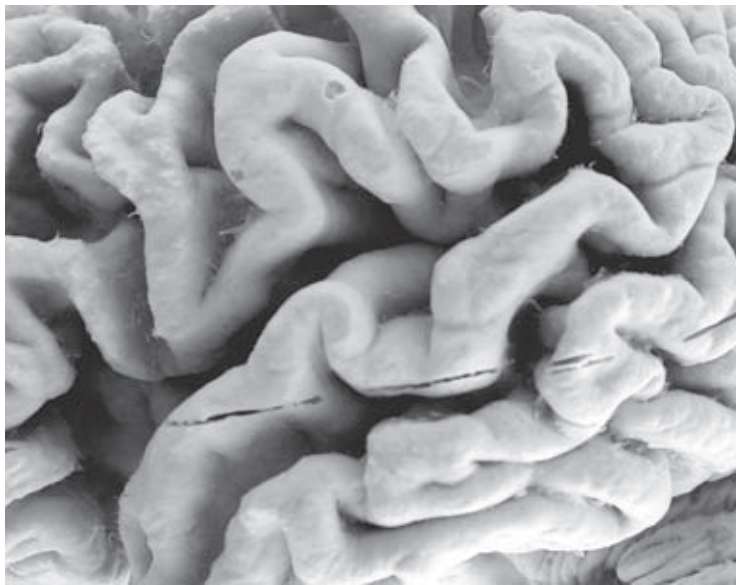
Late-life high blood pressure may harm the brain, study says

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**
AP Chief Medical Writer

Decades ago, hundreds of nuns and priests made an extraordinary decision: They agreed to donate their brains upon death to science, hoping to help solve mysteries about Alzheimer's and other diseases. Now, a study that used their gifts is giving some clues. It reveals that high blood pressure late in life might harm the brain.

Autopsies on nearly 1,300 older people, including about 640 clergy members, found more signs of damage and one of the hallmarks of Alzheimer's disease in the brains of those with higher blood pressure than among those with pressure closer to normal, researchers reported Wednesday.

The study does not prove cause and effect, and it does not yet provide a comparison of rates of dementia or its most common form, Alzheimer's — those results will take longer to parse. But it challenges a theory that high pressure is not as harmful in old age as it is when people are younger.



This Oct. 7, 2003 file photo shows a closeup of a human brain affected by Alzheimer's disease on display at the Museum of Neuroanatomy at the University at Buffalo in Buffalo, N.Y.

Associated Press

"We can't be alarmist. This is preliminary data" that needs to be validated by others, said the study leader, Dr. Zoe Arvanitakis of Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. "It's far too soon to make recommendations about blood pressure in older people based on this study."

The research began in 1994 and combined people from three studies of aging who agreed to donate their brains for autopsy upon their death, including

the Religious Orders Study of Catholic clergy throughout the United States.

All were over 65 and without known dementia at the start and were followed until they died — at an average age of 89 and after an average of eight years in the study.

Two-thirds had high blood pressure, defined as a top reading of 140 or more when the study began (it's now 130 under new guidelines adopted last fall.) Their pressures were measured

once a year during the study — a strength of this work over some previous research that just relied on people to say whether they had high pressure or not.

After each participant died, researchers examined their brains for areas of dead tissue caused by lack of blood supply. These blighted areas can be tiny and cause no symptoms, so they're sometimes called evidence of "silent strokes." About half of the study participants had one or more of these, and the risk was greater for those with higher blood pressure. For example, people with an average top reading of 147 had a 46 percent greater risk of having one or more of the bad spots than those with an average top reading of 134.

People with higher bottom blood pressure readings also had a greater risk for this problem.

Researchers also found a link between higher pressure and one of the signs of Alzheimer's — tangles of a protein called tau — but not another Alzheimer's hallmark, amyloid plaques. This needs further research

to understand the implications, Arvanitakis said.

"It's a pretty strong study," said James Hendrix, director of global science initiatives at the Alzheimer's Association. "Autopsy data is really powerful" and has been the gold standard for diagnosing Alzheimer's for many years, he said.

With Alzheimer's, changes in the brain occur a decade or more before symptoms do, so high blood pressure may have been doing damage well before the age when these people enrolled in the study, he said.

How might high pressure do harm?

"Lower blood pressure reduces the risk of those blood vessel blockages" that can cause a silent stroke, said another independent expert, the Mayo Clinic's Dr. David Knopman. The work shows that "treating blood pressure throughout the lifespan is important."

Knopman is a spokesman for the American Academy of Neurology, whose journal, *Neurology*, published the study. Federal grants paid for the work. □



In this November 2010 photo provided by the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology, researchers examine the body of a frozen hunter known as Oetzi the Iceman to sample his stomach contents in Bolzano, Italy.

Associated Press

Ancient 'Iceman' shows signs of a well-balanced last meal

By **EMILIANO RODRIGUEZ**
MEGA

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Talk about a paleo diet. Scientists have uncovered the last meal of a frozen hunter who died 5,300 years ago in the Alps.

The stomach contents of the corpse, widely known as Oetzi the Iceman, offer a snapshot of what ancient Europeans ate more than five millennia ago, re-

searchers said.

On the menu, described Thursday in the journal *Current Biology*, were the fat and meat of a wild goat, meat of a red deer and whole wheat seeds, which Oetzi ate shortly before his death.

Traces of fern leaves and spores were also discovered in Oetzi's stomach. Scientists think he may have swallowed the plant unintentionally or as a

medicine for parasites previously found in his gut.

"It was very impressive," said lead author Frank Maixner, a microbiologist at the Institute for Mummy Studies in Bolzano, Italy. "We could see chunks and pieces of food with (the) naked eye." Though the researchers had previously examined Oetzi's intestines, this was the first time they could look into his stomach. The reason is nothing short of grotesque. Following Oetzi's death, the organ moved upwards. It was not until 2009, 18 years after his remains were discovered near the Italy-Austria border, that a radiologist detected it behind the rib cage. And it was full. After slowly defrosting the body, the team took samples and rehydrated them. □

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Legend, Mars among Emmys music nominees

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Music stars in competition for Emmys this year include John Legend, Bruno Mars and Sara Bareilles.

Legend and Bareilles each earned acting nods for their roles in NBC's "Jesus Christ Superstar Live In Concert." Mars earned a nomination for outstanding music direction for his first TV special, CBS' "Bruno Mars: 24K Magic Live at the Apollo." Legend, who has won several Grammys as well as an Oscar and a Tony, could become an EGOT if he takes home outstanding lead actor in a limited series or movie.

The term EGOT refers to someone who has won one of all the major awards: an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony.

Benj Pasek and Justin Paul are also on their way to EGOT status: The composing duo earned a nomination for outstanding original music and lyrics for "In the Market for a Miracle" from Fox's "A Christmas Story Live!"

The Emmy nominations for outstanding reality competition show have been announced. The nominees are: "The Amazing Race"; "American Ninja Warrior"; "Project Runway"; "RuPaul's Drag Race"; "Top Chef"; "The Voice".

The field is identical to last year, when "The Voice" took home the Emmy statuette. "The Voice" and "RuPaul's Drag Race" tied for most nominations for a reality program with 10 apiece. The Emmys ceremony airs Sept. 17 on NBC with Colin Jost and Michael Che of "Saturday Night Live" as



An Emmy statue appears on stage at the 70th Primetime Emmy Nominations Announcements on Thursday, July 12, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

hosts.

HBO's "Game of Thrones" has received the most nominations for this year's Emmy Awards, but the haul could not stop Netflix from becoming the most-nominated network at this year. Netflix is the network received 112 nominations this year, up from 91 last year. Its nominations were spread around numerous shows, including "Stranger Things," "The Crown," "GLOW" and "Godless."

"Game of Thrones" received several supporting acting nominations, including for Lena Headey, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau and Peter Dinklage.

"Game of Thrones" roared back onto the Emmy battlefield, topping Thursday's nominations with 22 bids.

HBO's fantasy saga is a two-

time best drama winner that sat out the last year's awards.

It's returning to face formidable competition: "The Handmaid's Tale," the dystopian sci-fi series that claimed top drama honors last year, drew 20 bids, with "Westworld" close by with 21.

Donald Glover's "Atlanta" is the top comedy with 16 bids. It will face newcomers including "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" and "Barry," starring Bill Hader.

The revival of "Roseanne," canceled because of star Roseanne Barr's racist tweet, drew only one major nomination, a supporting actress nod for Laurie Metcalf.

"Saturday Night Live," riding high with its relentless pillorying of the Trump administration, was rewarded with 21 nods.

The previous high for "Game of Thrones" was 24 nominations in 2015. It got 23 nods in 2016 but wasn't eligible last year.

The Emmys ceremony airs Sept. 17 on NBC with Colin Jost and Michael Che of "Saturday Night Live" as hosts.

The Emmy nominations for the top television drama and comedy series have been announced.

The nominees for best drama series include: "The Americans," "The Crown," "Game of Thrones," "The Handmaid's Tale," "Stranger Things," "This Is Us" and "Westworld."

The nominees for best comedy series include: "Atlanta," "Barry," "black-ish," "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "GLOW," "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," "Silicon Valley" and "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt."

The 2018 Emmy nominations for lead actors in a drama series have been announced.

The nominees for best actor in a drama series include: Jason Bateman, "Ozark"; Sterling K. Brown, "This Is Us"; Ed Harris, "Westworld"; Matthew Rhys, "The Americans"; Milo Ventimiglia, "This Is Us" and Jeffrey Wright, "Westworld."

The nominees for best actress in a drama series include: Claire Foy, "The Crown"; Tatiana Maslany, "Orphan Black"; Elisabeth Moss, "The Handmaid's Tale"; Sandra Oh, "Killing Eve"; Keri Russell, "The Americans"; Evan Rachel Wood, "Westworld."

The nominees for lead actor in a limited series or movie include: Antonio Banderas, "Genius: Picasso"; Darren Criss, "The Assas-

sination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story"; Benedict Cumberbatch, "Patrick Melrose"; Jeff Daniels, "The Looming Tower"; John Legend, "Jesus Christ Superstar: Live in Concert"; Jesse Plemons, "USS Callister Black Mirror."

The final preparations are being made for the 2018 Emmy nominations.

Actors Samira Wiley of "The Handmaid's Tale" and Ryan Eggold, who starred in "The Blacklist," will read this year's nominees beginning at 8:25 a.m. PDT. About an hour before the nominations, Wiley, wearing a burgundy dress and gold heels, stepped out into the lobby of the television academy and snapped photos in front of a giant screen promoting the 70th annual Emmys.

Dozens of journalists have cameras set up to record the announcement, which will be made on a giant stage decked out with four giant Emmy statuettes.

Wiley is a possible nominee for "Handmaid's Tale," which won best drama series last year.

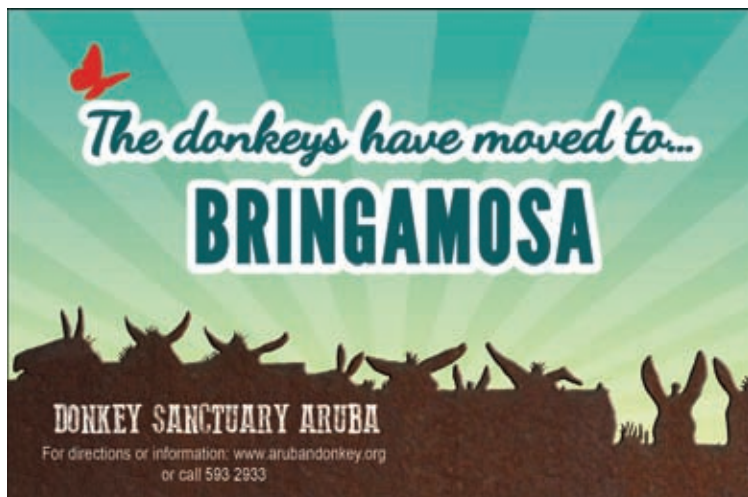
The Emmy Awards will be presented Sept. 17 on NBC with Colin Jost and Michael Che of "Saturday Night Live" as hosts.

Blockbuster movies typically are snubbed by the Oscars, leaving fans grumbling, but TV's top prize takes a different approach. When the 70th Emmy Awards nominees are announced Thursday morning, popular series including HBO's "Game of Thrones," NBC's "This Is Us" and CBS' "Mom" are likely to be in the running.

"Game of Thrones" is a two-time best drama series winner. It's back in the running for honors for its next-to-last season after a production delay kept it out of the 2017 competition.

Its biggest adversary is "The Handmaid's Tale," the dystopian drama that captured last year's top series prize and acting awards for Elisabeth Moss, Ann Dowd and Alexis Bledel among its eight wins.

The Emmy Awards ceremony airs Sept. 17 on NBC. □



Click 'like' for Bo Burnham's 'Eighth Grade'

By JAKE COYLE,
Associated Press

Not even Joseph Conrad had the courage to venture into that darkest of hearts: middle school.

Bo Burnham's "Eighth Grade," however, plunges us into the day-to-day experience of a 13-year-old girl, Kayla Day (Elsie Fisher) with just as much intensity as a journey down the Congo. Every sling and arrow, in the mall food court or on Snapchat, is felt acutely. Whenever Kayla's crush, the (to her eyes) smoldering Aiden (Luke Prael), steps in the room, the world turns slow-motion and the music thunders. End-of-the-year superlatives? The horror.

Such harrowing moments have long been stretched for their comedy ("Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life") or their torture ("Welcome to the Dollhouse"), but rarely have they been rendered with such precision and empathy. Burnham's intimate, impressive directorial debut is armed not just with an understanding for the awkwardness of youth but with an anger at what social



This image released by A24 shows Emily Robinson, left, and Elsie Fisher in a scene from "Eighth Grade."

Associated Press

media and cell phones are doing to it.

The 27-year-old former YouTube sensation turned stand-up comedian turned feature filmmaker is an unlikely guide for such a crucible of adolescence. Burnham's comedy, while evolving, has typically been theatrically, even combatively brash. His rise was propelled by the technology he's now turning on. Like Burnham did as a teenager, Kayla hosts a

YouTube show, only nobody watches her earnest life advice. "The hard part about being yourself is that it's not easy," she says into her bedroom camera before reminding viewers to hit "like" and signing off with a forced trademark: "Gucci!" Sweet, shy and acne-covered, Kayla lacks both an audience and friends. Only one of those matters. Kayla tries, unconvincingly, to project a confident version of herself online while struggling through lonely days at school. On You-

Tube, she insists that she just chooses not to talk a lot. At school, she's named "quietest." Her loving single dad (an adorable Josh Hamilton) is seemingly the only one in her corner, and she mostly just sighs at him or tunes him out his very dad-ish entreaties with earbuds. From the start, we feel the unreasonable pressure put on Kayla by blissful Instagram accounts and savvy Twitter feeds. She spends much of her days and nights anxiously scrolling down screens, fueling her

insecurity (certainly not an affliction reserved only for teens). In one scene, Kayla wakes up, does her make-up from a YouTube tutorial, and then crawls back into bed to take a Snapchat selfie.

That the Internet is damaging Kayla isn't hard to get; when her iPhone screen cracks, she pricks her finger on it.

But she is gloriously plucky. The Post-its on her mirror read "Go get 'em!" and "Be sexy!" When an already cringe-inducing birthday party sets up karaoke, we start covering our eyes for the all certain embarrassment to come. But she goes for it. Burnham keeps the camera focused on Kayla and her personal triumph, not the reaction of the teen onlookers. Sorry, Rock. Kayla is the summer's most awe-inspiring hero.

Another movie might lead inevitably toward scenes of bullying. While there are dramatic confrontations, "Eighth Grade" is subtler and its focus more inward. There's the cool girl Kennedy (Catherine Oliveira) and an intimidating group of older kids, some nice, some not. □

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ADAM SANDLER | SELENA GOMEZ

HOTEL TRANSILVANIA 3

MON-THURS 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50
FRIDAY 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50 | 11:00
SATURDAY 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50 | 11:00
SUN & HOL 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50

DWAYNE JOHNSON | NEVE CAMPBELL

SKYSCRAPER

CXC PREMIUM LARGE FORMAT AUDITORIUM

2D MON-THURS 4:35 | 6:55 | 9:15
FRIDAY 4:35 | 6:55 | 9:15 | 11:35
SATURDAY 2:15 | 4:35 | 6:55 | 9:15 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 2:15 | 4:35 | 6:55 | 9:15

MON-THURS & SUN 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30
FRIDAY-SATURDAY 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30 | 10:50

PAUL RUDD | EVANGELINE LILLY

ANTHONY MUSE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-FRIDAY 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25
SAT & SUN 1:45 | 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25

SANDRA BULLOCK | CATE BLANCHETT

OCEAN'S 8

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-FRI 4:30 | 6:55
SAT & SUN 2:05 | 4:30 | 6:55

MARISA TOMEI | Y'LAN NOEL

THE FIRST PURGE

MON-THURS 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35
FRIDAY 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 11:55
SATURDAY 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35

CHRIS PRATT | JEFF GOLDBLUM

JURASSIC WORLD

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-SUN 3:45 | 6:25 | 9:10

SAMUEL L. JACKSON | CRAIG T. NELSON

INCREDIBLES 2

MON-THURS 5:50 | 8:30
FRIDAY 5:50 | 8:30 | 11:10
SATURDAY 3:10 | 5:50 | 8:30 | 11:10
SUNDAY 3:10 | 5:50 | 8:30

SYLVESTER STALLONE | DAVE BAUTISTA

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MON-THURS & SUN 9:20
FRI & SAT 9:20 | 11:30

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Swinging '60s styles up for auction from Sharon Tate estate



This photo shows two floral canvas and leather bags owned by the late actress Sharon Tate which will be auctioned November 17 in Los Angeles by Julien's Auctions.

Associated Press

Associated Press
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mini-dresses and a wedding dress are among the items from estate of actress Sha-

ron Tate are going up for auction.

Tate starred in the 1967 film "Valley of the Dolls" and was the toast of the swing-

ing '60s social scene. She was murdered in Los Angeles by the notorious Charles Manson cult in 1969.

Los Angeles-based Julien's Auctions said Wednesday the sale is set to begin Nov. 17. The auction house would not reveal the name of the seller, and it's not clear who now owns the items.

A silk mini-wedding dress that Tate wore for her marriage to director Roman Polanski could draw up to \$50,000, according to auction-house estimates. A two-toned mini-dress that Tate wore to the 1968 Cannes Film Festival is expected to fetch up to \$7,000.

The collection also includes "ST" monogrammed luggage. □

Estefans: Immigration debate has fueled reaction to musical

By MIKE CIDONI LENNOX

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gloria and Emilio Estefan credit President Donald Trump with boosting audience enthusiasm for their stage musical "On Your Feet!"

As the immigration debate has heated up, so have audiences' reactions to scenes in new stage musical that spins around two immigrants, the Grammy winners said in a recent interview.

"On Your Feet!" tells the story of the Estefans, who fled Cuba, settled in Miami and eventually attained the American dream. They built a musical empire with a string of successes, including their signature song, "Conga."

The show officially opened in Los Angeles Tuesday, its latest stop after debuting on Broadway in summer 2015. It was in the middle of its 780-performance run when Trump was elected president and has turned hardline immigration reform into one of his signature policies.

"This was written, like, six years ago. I think it's actually what is happening now," Emilio Estefan said.



In this July 9, 2018 photo, Gloria and Emilio Estefan pose for a portrait at BiteSize Studio in Los Angeles to promote their touring musical "On Your Feet!."

In addition to being a love story and a success story, "On Your Feet!" also portrays challenges faced the Estefans, and many immigrants:

For example, how does one make a new home in a place where many say they want you to "Go home."

"(It was said) several times to us in our lives," recalled Gloria Estefan, when asked about the current administration's stand on immigration.

tion.

The show also deals with a continuing conflict for immigrants who want to hold on to their roots while also being accepted into the American mainstream.

The scene generating increasing applause portrays an argument that Gloria and Emilio have with their longtime manager, who is livid when the Estefans tell him they want to stop focusing on recordings

in Spanish, in which they were dominant, and start recording in English to cross over to the pop charts.

Gloria Estefan recounted Emilio's real-life response to the manager, which is included in the show: "I'm not sure where you think I live, but this is my home. And you should look very closely at my face, because whether you know it or not, this is what an American looks like."

"The reaction we get (to the scene) in the crowd now (is bigger) than ever before, because it's a feeling about (being) united," Emilio Estefan said.

"I think it's a feeling about this country. And you don't have to be Republican or Democrat.

It's about, you know, that you have to respect human beings."

Emilio Estefan said it's important for immigrants to retain a sense of identity from their homeland.

"You have a different last name. You have a different sound. You want to bring something new that people need to accept you the way that you are without changing your last name.

I think it's extremely important to send that message to any generation, especially millennials."

"On Your Feet!" is in the midst of an 80-city tour across the United States. It began its international run in the Netherlands October 2017.

The Estefans said it will open on London's West End in June 2019, and that dates in Japan and Latin America are on the horizon. □

Last words: The late Peter Mayle's 'My 25 Years in Provence'

By BETH J. HARPAZ

Associated Press

A new, posthumously published collection of essays by Peter Mayle takes readers back to the idyllic, slow-paced and occasionally befuddling world that Mayle first wrote about in his best-selling memoir "A Year in Provence."

"My Twenty-Five Years in Provence: Reflections on Then and Now" was published in late June by Alfred A. Knopf, five months after Mayle's death in January at age 78. The collection is all new material. But it treads delightfully familiar ground for fans who succumbed to the charms of Mayle's first book. The new volume transports readers to the South of France through the eyes of an Englishman who never ceases to marvel at the sunshine,



In this June 20, 1997, file photo, author Peter Mayle is shown in New York.

Associated Press

fine food and sometimes inscrutable culture of his adopted turf. (The cuisine and weather are easy to love, but Mayle never gets used to disorderly lines, aggressive driving and long, detailed consultations with pharmacists.)

What counts as excitement in Provence? A game of boules, or lawn bowling, which Mayle describes as "rural ballet." Finding tender green beans (haricots verts) at the farmers market just hours after being harvested. Or simply watching

the parade of ordinary village life unfold from an unhurried, front-row seat in an outdoor cafe over a glass of delicately hued rose wine.

Mayle worked in advertising and educational publishing in England before he and his wife Jennie moved to France in 1987. "A Year in Provence" was published two years later with little fanfare. It eventually sold millions of copies and inspired an entire genre of books about the expatriate life, including Frances Mayes' "Under the Tuscan Sun." In the new book, Mayle explains that he and Jennie ended up in Provence after their planned vacation on the Cote d'Azur was rained out. They started driving toward Aix-en-Provence, hoping for better weather and a good

meal. They found both, along with "a scattering of villages" where they would eventually buy a 200-year-old farmhouse abutting woods and a national park. The book offers vignettes from the region's "leisurely approach to life," Mayle wrote, which "seemed to produce amiable people with a relaxed temperament. ... Did it really matter if the occasional pressing chore was postponed in favor of lunch?"

Every season, Mayle noted, "brought its own fascinating reason not to settle down and work." Summer was perhaps the most challenging, with its triple plague of houseguests, tourists and heat, but it was followed by golden Septembers and the bountiful harvests of fall, easily enjoyed at markets or cafes. □

New ways to conquer sleep apnea compete for place in bedroom

By **CARLA K. JOHNSON**
Associated Press

Every night without fail, Paul Blumstein straps on a mask that prevents him from repeatedly waking up, gasping for air.

It's been his routine since he was diagnosed with a condition called sleep apnea. While it helps, he doesn't like wearing the mask.

"It's like an octopus has clung to my face," said Blumstein, 70, of Annandale, Virginia. "I just want to sleep once in a while without that feeling."

It's been two decades since doctors fully recognized that breathing that stops and starts during sleep is tied to a host of health issues, even early death, but there still isn't a treatment that most people find easy to use.

Airway pressure masks, the most common remedy, have improved in design, getting smaller and quieter, but patients still complain about sore nostrils, dry mouths and claustrophobia.

Now, new ways of conquering sleep apnea, and the explosive snoring that comes with it, are vying for a place in the bedrooms of millions of people craving a good night's sleep. Products range from a \$350 restraint meant to discourage back sleeping to a \$24,000 surgical implant that pushes the tongue forward with each breath.

Mouthpieces, fitted by dentists, work for some people but have their own problems, including jaw pain. Some patients try sur-



Researcher David Carley of the University of Illinois at Chicago poses for a photo at the school on May 31, 2018.

gery, but it often doesn't work. Doctors recommend weight loss, but diet and exercise can be challenging for people who aren't sleeping well.

So far, no pills for sleep apnea exist, but researchers are working on it. One drug containing THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, showed promise in a study this year.

What is sleep apnea? In people with the condition, throat and tongue muscles relax and block the airway during sleep, caused by obesity, aging or facial structure. They stop breathing, sometimes for up to a minute and hundreds of times each night, then awake with loud gasping and snoring. That prevents them from getting deep, restorative sleep.

They are more likely than

others to have strokes, heart attacks and heart rhythm problems, and they're more likely to die prematurely. But it's hard to tease out whether those problems are caused by sleep apnea itself, or by excess weight, lack of exercise or something else entirely.

For specialists, the first-choice, most-studied remedy remains continuous positive airway pressure, or CPAP. It's a motorized device that pumps air through a mask to open a sleeper's airway. About 5 million Americans have tried CPAP, but up to a third gave up during the first several years because of discomfort and inconvenience.

Martin Braun, 76, of New York City stopped using his noisy machine and awkward mask, but now he's trying again after a car crash when he fell asleep at the wheel. "That's when I realized, OK this is serious stuff already," said Braun, who has ordered a quieter CPAP model.

Sleep medicine is a relatively new field. The most rigorous studies are small or don't follow patients for longer than six months, said Dr. Alex Krist of Virginia Commonwealth University, who served on a federal guidelines panel that reviewed sleep apnea treatments before recommending

against screening adults who have no symptoms.

"We don't know as much about the benefits of treating sleep apnea as we should," said Krist, vice-chair of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

While scientists haven't proved CPAP helps people live longer, evidence shows it can reduce blood pressure, improve daytime sleepiness, lessen snoring and reduce the number of times a patient stops breathing. CPAP also improves quality of life, mood and productivity.

With noticeable results, many CPAP users, even those like Blumstein with a love-hate relationship with

their devices, persist.

Blumstein was diagnosed about 15 years ago after he fell asleep behind the wheel at a traffic light. He shared his frustrations with using a mask at a recent patient-organized meeting with the Food and Drug Administration, as did Joelle Dobrow of Los Angeles, who said it took her seven years to find one she liked. "I went through 26 different mask styles," she said. "I kept a spreadsheet so I wouldn't duplicate it."

Researchers are now focused on how to get people to use a mask more faithfully and predicting who is likely to abandon it and could start instead with a dental device.

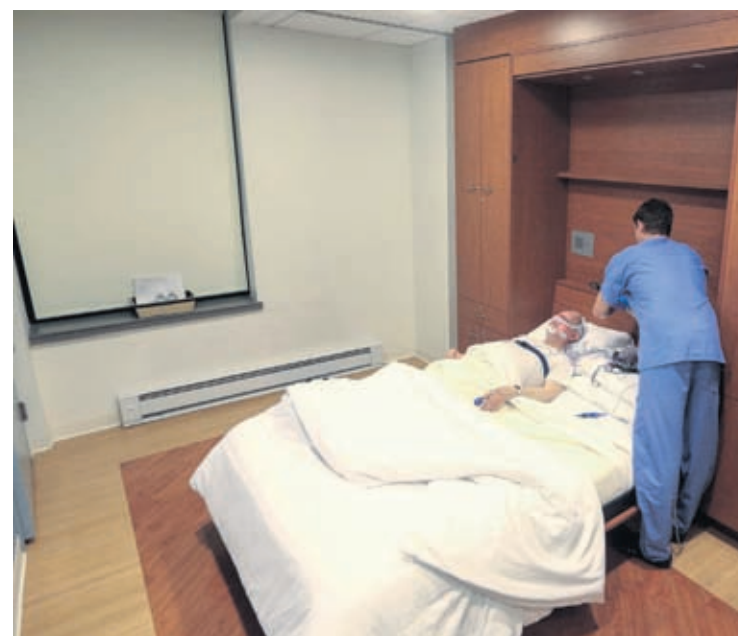
"It's the bane of my existence as a sleep doctor," said Dr. James Rowley of Wayne State University in Detroit. "A lot of what sleep doctors do in the first few months after diagnosis is help people be able to use their CPAP."

Getting it right quickly is important because of insurers' use-it-or-lose-it policies. Medicare and other insurers stop paying for a rented CPAP machine if a new patient isn't using it enough. But patients often have trouble with settings and masks, with little help from equipment suppliers, according to Dr. Susan Redline of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. □



This May 31, 2018 photo shows capsules of dronabinol in Chicago.

Associated Press



A technician prepares equipment to monitor Martin Braun's brain activity during a sleep study at the New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York.

Associated Press